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戀妹
思春期
和泉兼好

KANEYOSHI IZUMI

Sonan Jyanaiyo!

1

Sonan Jyanaiyo! 1

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CHAPTER 1

OI, DON'T YOU THINK THAT GIRL'S KINDA CUTE?
WILL I, A GIRL WHO HAS NOT GOTTEN A BOYFRIEND IN 16 YEARS, BE ABLE TO SHAKE OFF THIS DRY SPELL!?
(EVEN THOUGH I HAVE SOME DOUBTS)
ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT ME?
EH? ISN'T THAT THE JOUSEI UNIFORM?
WHY DON'T YOU ASK HER FOR HER NAME!

CHAPTER 1
02

SHIZUKA'S FAMILY

RETSU AND TETSU'S YOUNGER SISTER

SHE HAS THE CHARACTER OF A TIMID LITTLE ANIMAL. SHE'S LIKE THE UGLY DUCKLING AS COMPARED TO HER EXTREMELY ATTRACTIVE FAMILY.
WHAT SHE LIKES: A REALLY PEACEFUL AND TRANQUIL LIFE

EVEN THOUGH HE LOOKS REALLY HANDSOME, HE'S A HOT-BLOODED CREATURE. HIS BODY MOVES QUICKER THAN HIS BRAIN, AND IS A SELF-CENTERED PERSON.
WHAT HE LIKES: SHIZUKA, RYOKAI MATSU FILMS

FRATERNAL TWINS

EVEN THOUGH HE LOOKS REALLY HANDSOME, HE'S A COLD-BLOODED CREATURE. HE USUALLY LIKES TO PUT ON A COOL FACE.
WHAT HE LIKES: SHIZUKA, SKIN-NUMBING COLD DILUTED NIJOU

EVEN THOUGH SHE'S VERY ATTRACTIVE, SHE'S A CARNIVORE AT HEART. EVEN THOUGH SHE RAISED THE FAMILY ON HER OWN, SHE'S STILL AN EXPERT AT HUNTING FOR MEN.
WHAT SHE LIKES: MONEY, MEN.

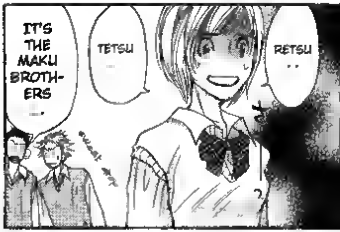
PASSED AWAY WHILE THE CHILDREN WERE STILL YOUNG

UH ... BUT ...
AT LEAST GIVE US YOUR E-MAIL!
IN THIS SITUATION, I MUST ACT AS IF IT'S NORMAL FOR ME, AND THAT LOTS OF GUYS HAVE APPROACHED ME BEFORE! MORE CHARM! MORE GUTS!
IF I WILLINGLY GIVE IT TO THEM, THEY WOULD THINK THAT I'M A LOSER— I CAN'T DO THAT!
IF IT'S JUST MY E-MAIL ...
LET'S ... LET'S SEE...

WERE YOU SCARED, SHIZUKA? DON'T WORRY, IT'S ALRIGHT NOW
ぎゅっ
DIDN'T WE TELL YOU THAT IT'S DANGEROUS TO WALK TO SCHOOL ALONE?
SHUDDER

SEE?

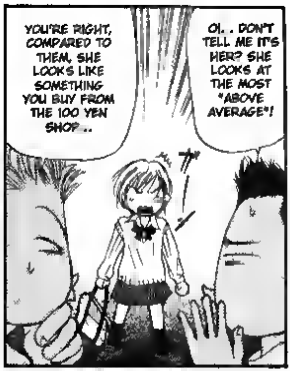
WHO?
DON'T YOU KNOW THEM? THEY'RE THE INFAMOUS MAKU BROTHERS!


IT'S THE MAKU BROTHERS...
TETSU
RETSU
..

THE MAKU BROTHERS HAVE IT ALL!
FRATERNAL TWINS
RETSU MAKU (17)
TETSU MAKU (17)
NO MATTER HOW RICH OR HOW POOR, NOT ONE GIRL HAS NOT FALLEN FOR THIS PAIR OF FRATERNAL TWINS!
FROM HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS TO ROYALTY,

PLUS, I'VE HEARD THAT THE MAKU BROTHERS HAVE A REALLY NOT YOUNGER SISTER!

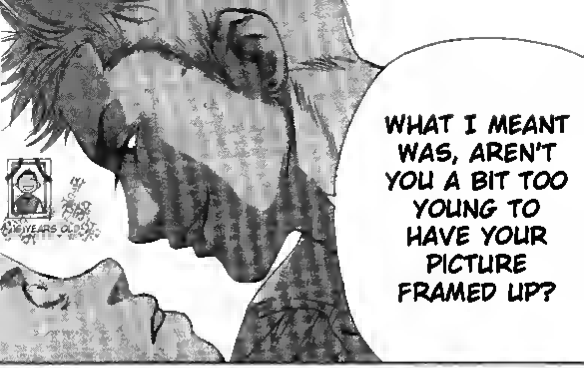
I'M GOING TO ENTER ANOTHER DIMENSION!
NOT AGAIN!
NOT AGAIN!
SHIZUKA MAKU CHO


YOU'RE RIGHT, COMPARED TO THEM, SHE LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING YOU BUY FROM THE 100 YEN SHOP...
OI.. DON'T TELL ME IT'S HER? SHE LOOKS AT THE MOST "ABOVE AVERAGE"!

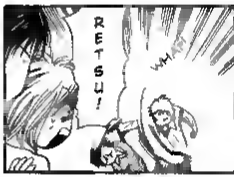
grab
thump

OI!
twitch

HOW DARE YOU INSULT SHIZUKA'S LOOKS! DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU?
H-HOW WERE WE SUPPOSED TO KNOW? YOU... YOU BASTARD!


MY FIRST PICTURE 16 YEARS OLD
WHAT I MEANT WAS, AREN'T YOU A BIT TOO YOUNG TO HAVE YOUR PICTURE FRAMED UP?

AFTER THE DEATH OF A COUPLE OF BUGS.
THE WORLD WON'T CHANGE


RETSU!
WHA?

TETSU, STOP HIM! HE'S GOING TO BE KILLED!
IT'S ALRIGHT, SHIZUKA!

TH-THESE FELLOWS ARE SICK IN THE HEAD! LET'S GO!
THEN LEAVE ALREADY!
TETSU!
AI

BUGS...

GOD...
WILL I EVER BE ABLE TO GET A BOYFRIEND?
HAVING A BOY WILLING TO APPROACH ME IS A RARE OPPORTUNITY...!
AH...
MORNING RETSU-SAN!
TETSU-SAN!
WAA
HEY MAKU, LISTEN UP...
BUT YOU GUYS HAVE SO MANY GIRLS AFTER YOU! IT'S NOT FAIR!

WELL THEN, SEE YOU AFTER CLASS
I LOVE YOU, SHIZUKA!
THE ONLY GIRL WHO GREETS HER
MORNING SHIZUKA!
WHY MUST THEY ALWAYS FOLLOW ME AROUND!
YA---
1-B
BUT, THE THREE OF YOU REALLY DON'T LOOK ALIKE AT ALL!
YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT I DON'T LOOK LIKE THEM, AND THAT I'M AN ORDINARY GIRL?
SHIZUKA, DON'T TWIST MY WORDS!
I'M UGLY
ANYONE WHO STANDS NEXT TO THEM WILL LOOK REALLY ORDINARY!
AND THOSE BUTTERFLIES FLYING AROUND YOUR BROTHERS ARE JUST JEALOUS OF YOU!
YOU...
touched

JUST AS I THOUGHT...
THERE ARE TWO
BUTTERFLIES HERE TOO...
I REALLY HOPE WE CAN BE GOOD FRIENDS WITH YOU, AND VISIT YOUR PLACE EVERY NOW AND THEN---
BUT IT MUST BE WHEN YOUR BROTHERS ARE IN.
THAT'S WHY YOU MUST TELL YOUR BROTHERS WHAT GREAT FRIENDS WE ARE!
I KNOW YOU COULD RECOMMEND US TOO!
Flutter
Flutter
Flutter

WHY IS HAVING A BOYFRIEND CONSIDERED BETTER THAN BEING SINGLE...
IN THIS WORLD...
OF COURSE, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU STAY SINGLE...
DON'T BE SO OLD FASHIONED, MY FRIEND!
EH? WE WERE JUST FOOLING AROUND ...
DON'T THE BOTH OF YOU HAVE BOYFRIENDS?
EFF
DAMN AH!

...
HEHE
BUT I ALREADY HAVE A BOY-FRIEND...!

TO BE TOTALLY FREE, THE BEST WAY IS TO BE SINGLE, RIGHT, HARA-SAN!
SHE UNDERSTANDS MY PLIGHT!

SOCIETY DATABASE
WAIT
AH

I WILL NOT LOSE TO ANYONE!
ISN'T IT BETTER BEING SINGLE THAN GOING OUT WITH SOME STRANGE GUY?!
I CAN'T ACCEPT THIS.
ONLY PEOPLE WHO HAVE DATED WEIRD PEOPLE WOULD USE SUCH A LAME EXCUSE..

CITY OF ATARAGE
SENPAI ...
I LOVE YOU ...
EVEN USING THIS PLACE TO DO THAT! THIS IS A SCHOOL, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WHY IS EVERYONE HERE LIKE THIS!

HUH?

AH
AH

BUT, THAT NOISE ...

WE CAN'T !
AHH...
HEHE
NO WAY! SOME-ONE'S ACTUALLY DOING THAT IN THERE...! ?
WHAT!?

AHHH!
HARA-SAN?!
I MUST SHOUT, LIKE THAT!
HOW CAN YOU CALL A GIRL WHO SHOUTS LIKE THAT A VIRGIN!!
ACK---
WHAT'S THAT?
THIS IS PAY-PER-VIEW, YOU KNOW...
gaba

KAAAAAA
EI
OH MAN --
HEHEHEHE
THAT WAS A SHOCK!
GULP
SILENCE
I DIDN'T EXPECT SHIZUKA TO SEE ME LIKE THAT. NOW I'M A BIT EMBARRASSED!
HEH HEH
YOU CALL THAT "A BIT"? WHAT ARE YOU BASING THAT ON!?

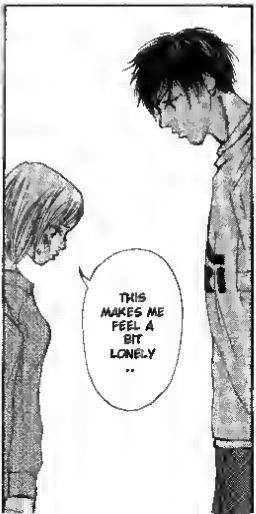
REMEMBER TO USE SOME PROTECTION!
HMM?
MOM, SAY SOMETHING!
MOTHER - RYOKO MAKU (37)
DON'T TELL ME IT'S BECAUSE HE'S YOUR "BROTHER", THAT'S WHY HE CAN'T DO THESE THINGS!
GATA
WHAT MAKES ME ANGRY IS THAT
AS A GUY, YOU SHOULDN'T GET STINGY ON BUYING CONDOMS. IT COULD BACKFIRE ON YOU.
MOM...! I WASN'T ASKING YOU TO GIVE HIM A LECTURE ON SAFE SEX...
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SIBLINGS HE'S STILL A MAN! HE'S BOUND TO HAVE GIRLFRIENDS!
UNLESS YOU HAVE FEELINGS FOR HIM?
.....

DAD... OH DAD, ARE YOU LISTENING TO THIS?
AH, I'M FINE WITH THAT, JUST DON'T GET ONE YOUNGER THAN I AM.
THAT WOULD BE INCEST, THE LAW!
PLUS, EVEN THOUGH I'M YOUR MOTHER, I'M STILL A WOMAN!! YOU MUST LEARN TO COMPREHEND THE FACT THAT I MIGHT END UP WITH SOMEONE YOUNGER THAN ME!

WHY IS THAT CHILD SO OLD FASHIONED ---?
SHIZUKA'S SO CUTE
ISN'T IT BECAUSE OF REVERSE PSYCHOLOGY?
chew chew
I'LL JUST TELL DAD!
ENOUGH!
SLAM!

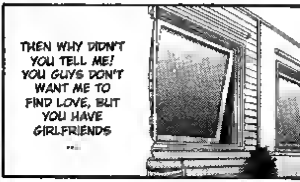
TETSU, YOU KNEW THAT RETSU IS SEEING MY CLASS-MATE HARA-SAN, RIGHT?
SHIZUKA?

TETSU.


THIS MAKES ME FEEL A BIT LONELY ..

SO YOU AL-READY KNEW ...
PAU.

.
.


THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME! YOU GUYS DON'T WANT ME TO FIND LOVE, BUT YOU HAVE GIRLFRIENDS ...

Hug

I'LL ALWAYS STAY BY YOUR SIDE
IF YOU WANT.

...THERE WOULD BE TIMES WHEN I THINK
DON'T WORRY.

AND, WHY DO I FEEL LIKE I WAS MADE FUN OF JUST NOW!
NO! HOW CAN I CONTINUE HAVING A BOY-FREE YOUTH, ESPECIALLY WHEN PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT I HAVE A BROTHER COMPLEX!!
THAT I CAN'T GET A BOYFRIEND
BECAUSE I CAN'T FIND ANYONE WHO IS BETTER THAN MY BROTHERS...

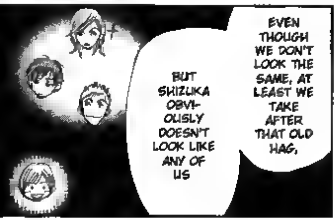
YAWA
WHY IS THIS GIRL SO SELF-CENTERED ...
AND SHE'S SO BORING
HEY! ARE YOU LISTENING?

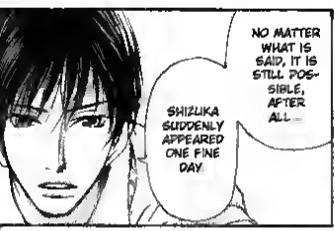
ANYWAY RETSU-SENPAI,
2-C

kya
kya
kya
kya
AS I WAS SAYING
I WENT TO THAT SHOP
BE-CAUSE I'M THAT KIND OF PERSON

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU GUYS
TETSU
ARGH... SHE'S SUCH A BITCH!!
AND ACTING THAT WAY TOO...
I'M GOING TO CRY! WUU WUU
I FEEL SO EMBARRASSED JUST STANDING NEXT TO HER!!
OI! STOP LOOKING AT HER LIKE THAT!
HUH? HUH?
AWW, TETSU SENPAI CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE BUSY IN LOVE RIGHT NOW?
GOD, SOME GIRL'S GOING TO KILL YOU OFF ONE OF THESE FINE DAYS
YOU BE-AST
WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER, THE ONLY THING THAT'S GREAT IS THE SEX, OTHER THAN THAT, SHE'S JUST AN EMPTY VESSEL
DIDN'T EXPECT SHIZUKA TO TELL YOU SHE FEELS LONELY— GREAT! THEN I'LL BREAK UP WITH THAT GIRL
HUH? SHIZUKA?

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY FEELINGS FOR YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
NOPE!
REGARD-LESS OF HOW WONDER-FUL THAT PERSON IS,
WE'RE THE SAME,
OTHER THAN SHIZUKA


EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T LOOK THE SAME, AT LEAST WE TAKE AFTER THAT OLD HAG,
BUT SHIZUKA OBVIOUSLY DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANY OF US


NO MATTER WHAT IS SAID, IT IS STILL POSSIBLE, AFTER ALL...
SHIZUKA SUDDENLY APPEARED ONE FINE DAY.

TETSU... YOU RECKON SHIZUKA'S REALLY OUR SISTER?

IF YOU BULLY HER, YOU'LL GET IT FROM ME
TETSU, RETSU. THIS IS YOUR YOUNGER SISTER, SHIZUKA!

SO, YOU STILL REMEMBER..
WE WERE AROUND 3 THEN, RIGHT? I CAN ONLY REMEMBER IT VAGUELY.
BUT THERE'S A HIGH CHANCE SHIZUKA ISN'T RELATED TO US GENETICALLY.
WE MUST PROTECT HER, NOT LET HER BE IN ANY HARM, EVEN IF THAT IS SO....
BUT WON'T SHIZUKA FIND OUT... SOMEDAY?
WHEN THAT TIME COMES, SHE WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE ONE OF US...

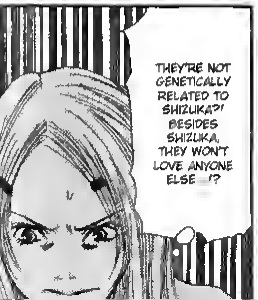
IT WILL BE ME
SOCIETY DATABASE
BUT NO ORDINARY PERSON WOULD GO TO THAT ROOM, WHY DID SHIZUKA GO THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?
AT LEAST I WON'T GET CAUGHT BY SHIZUKA.
TETSU, DON'T CALL THE KETTLE BLACK... EVERYONE KNOWS YOU LOST YOUR VIRGINITY EARLIER THAN I.
TAKE THAT!
LET THE NEXT ROUND BEGIN!
TETSU! WHERE DID YOU GET THAT SELF-CONFIDENCE FROM? YOU ARROGANT EGOISTIC BASTARD!
LOOK WHO'S TALKING! FEELING CONFIDENT EVEN AFTER BEING CAUGHT IN THE ACT WITH SOME GIRL!

AH,
BECAUSE I ASKED HER TO GET SOMETHING FOR ME

WHAT'S GOING ON...
SHUFFL

.....
WHAT WAS THAT "HAH" FOR!!
KICK

T... TETSU, YOU BAS-TARD...
THANKS TO YOU, SHIZUKA POURED OUT HER TROUBLES TO ME..... HOW QUAINT.
HAH-


THEY'RE NOT GENETICALLY RELATED TO SHIZUKA?! BESIDES SHIZUKA, THEY WON'T LOVE ANYONE ELSE...!?

THE TEACHER SAID...
AH, HARA-SAN! YOUR ASSIGN-MENT!
SHIZUKA HAS CHOSEN TO AVOID EYE CONTACT AFTER BEING REMINDED OF AN ANIMAL DOCUMEN-TARY!!
IF I MAKE EYE CONTACT, IT'LL ATTACK. IT'S BETTER IF I DON'T AGGRAVATE HER.
look away

V3 RANDOM SKETCHES

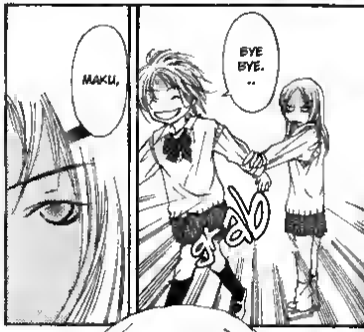
EVEN THOUGH IT ISN'T MUCH IT'S JUST SOMETHING THAT'S CLOSE TO MY HEART

NUMA (1)

THIS IS A NEW YEAR'S CARD: A FRIEND WITH A CHILD SENT TO ME

ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHY EVERYONE MUST HAVE A PICTURE IN FRONT OF A CARD IS IT ACTUALLY COMPULSORY?

WHEN I TURNED THE ORIGINAL PICTURE INTO THAT I GOT SCOLDED BADLY CONSIDERABLY ...)



AHA... I WISH I HAD ONE, BUT I DON'T,
MAYBE I CAN GET ONE IF I WERE A BIT CUTER----
THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT, I DON'T THINK YOU'RE UGLY! WOULDN'T YOU FEEL BETTER IF YOU HAD A BIT MORE CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF AND STOP THINKING OF YOURSELF AS UGLY?
.....
SHIZUKA'S BLOOD PRESSURE CONTINUES TO RISE EVEN THOUGH WHAT WAS SAID IS A FORM OF ADVICE!!
YOU DON'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE YOUR BROTHERS.
AGAIN...
SICK OF IT.
Fed up

BUT SINCE YOU'RE NOT BLOOD RELATED, I GUESS IT'S KINDA OBVIOUS.

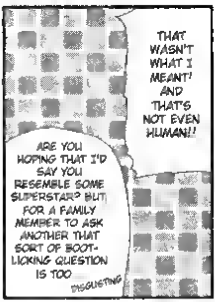
WHAT...?
THE ONLY REASON WHY THEY PROTECT YOU LIKE THIS IS BECAUSE THEY PITY YOU, BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT RELATED TO THEM!
AND YOU ACTUALLY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THEIR KINDNESS TO DOMINATE THEM, HOW SLY!!

YOU'RE JUST THEIR SISTER BY ACCIDENT!
BUT I WORKED HARD TO BECOME RETSU'S GIRLFRIEND, SO YOU BETTER NOT COME BETWEEN US!

WHAT?

WHEN I THINK OF THE FACT THAT YOU AND RETSU ARE LIVING UNDER THE SAME ROOF IT MAKES MY BLOOD BOIL!!

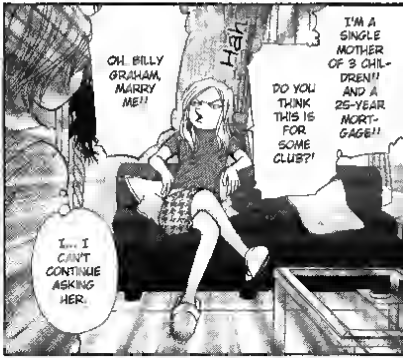
WHAT'S WRONG ?
NOTH-ING.
YOU'RE REALLY PRETTY
BECAUSE I'M A FEMALE GENIUS AND MY BEAUTY IS BECAUSE OF MY INTELLI-GENCE
TH-THEN
IF I DON'T LOOK LIKE MOM, TETSU OR RETSU,
dAki
dAki
WHO ...
DO I LOOK LIKE?

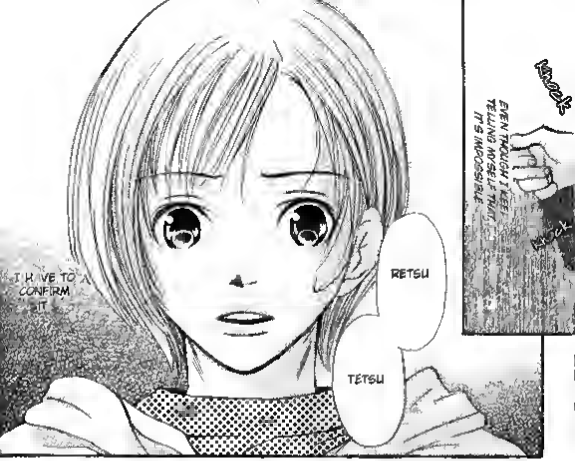

THAT WASN'T WHAT I MEANT! AND THAT'S NOT EVEN HUMAN!!
ARE YOU HOPING THAT I'D SAY YOU RESEMBLE SOME SUPERSTAR? BUT FOR A FAMILY MEMBER TO ASK ANOTHER THAT SORT OF BOOT-LICKING QUESTION IS TOO DISGUSTING

HUH? LIKE A BABY HAMSTER!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT! DON'T TELL ME WE ARE FAMILY JUST TO JOIN SOME CLUB'S ACTIVITY?
YOU'RE WEIRD!
ARE WE... ARE WE REALLY RELATED?

"TETSU AND TETSU AREN'T RELATED TO YOU"


OH, BILLY GRAHAM, MARRY ME!!
I... I CAN'T CONTINUE ASKING HER.
DO YOU THINK THIS IS FOR SOME CLUB?!
I'M A SINGLE MOTHER OF 3 CHILDREN!! AND A 25-YEAR MORTGAGE!!


I HAVE TO CONFIRM IT.
RETSU
TETSU
EVEN THOUGH I KEEP TELLING MYSELF THAT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
HUSH

I DON'T CARE ABOUT WHAT THAT GIRL TOLD YOU! JUST IGNORE HER.
.....

BUT...
SHIZUKA, TETSU'S RIGHT. I'LL GO TALK TO HARA ABOUT IT.

ACTUALLY, I'VE NOTICED IT FOR A LONG TIME.
THAT'S WHY, IF YOU KNOW SOMETHING I DON'T, PLEASE TELL ME.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I FEEL THAT YOUR AFFECTION TOWARDS ME IS WRONG
EVEN THOUGH I'M SUPPOSED TO BE GRATEFUL, BUT I DON'T THINK THAT WILL BE THE CASE
"THAT TIME" HAS FINALLY COME!
SHIZUKA...
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE NOT SO SURE OURSELVES
WE CAN'T RECALL SEEING YOU AS A BABY, BUT WHEN YOU WERE 2, YOU SUDDENLY APPEARED
WE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO TELL YOU, BUT YOU MIGHT NOT BE OUR BLOOD SISTER.

IF I'M NOT YOUR BLOOD SISTER... DO YOU THINK I'M SOMEONE ELSE?
REYN SPOON
ONE WORLD FAN CLUB

.....
SHIZUKA
THAT'S RIGHT!
EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT! EVEN IF WE AREN'T YOUR BROTHERS, WE CAN ALWAYS BE YOUR BOY-FRIENDS!!
WHICH ONE OF YOU WOULD YOU CHOOSE, HUH? HURRY UP AND CHOOSE ONE!
HURRY UP AND CHOOSE ONE...?!
WHAT THE

I'LL ALWAYS PROTECT YOU AND NOT LET YOU FEEL UNEASY!
WE'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT ABOUT IT THIS WAY.
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT? THERE ARE PLENTY OF GIRLS WHO WANT TO GO OUT WITH ME!
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?! THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO BE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS------!
THEN WHEN'S "THE TIME"?
HOW WEIRD...
EVEN IF I'M ADOPTED, IT'S STILL CALLED INCEST!! WHAT ARE THESE TWO FELLAS TALKING ABOUT!!
BUT I'M FEELING UNEASY RIGHT NOW!!
SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY WRONG!!

MY HEAD HURTS... I FEEL LIKE PUKING
EVEN THOUGH TETSU AND RETSU ARE BOTH HANDSOME...
BUT I JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR THEIR BRAINS TO CLEAR UP BEFORE COMING UP WITH A SOLUTION
AH, SHI-ZUKA!
noisy...
LIKE THIS, I CAN TREAT YESTERDAY'S INCIDENT LIKE A REALLY BAD DREAM
1-B
WHAT?
OHHH, IS IT TRUE?

SORRY, I TOLD EVERY-ONE THAT YOU'RE NOT RELATED TO RETSU-SENPAI.
Hmh, hmh
BECAUSE I FELT THAT IT WAS A BIT DESPICABLE FOR YOU TO KEEP STICKING TO THEM EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOT THEIR BLOOD SISTER... THAT'S WHY...
HAA.....
OI---!!
SORRY!
I WENT OVERBOARD, DIDN'T I? NO MATTER HOW YOU TRY TO RUIN MY RELATION-SHIP WITH RETSU-SENPAI, I SHOULDN'T HAVE...
EH? WHEN DID I...?
AND WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
IT'S AL-RIGHT! YOU HATE ME BE-CAUSE YOU LIKE RETSU. I UNDER-STAND!
SOB
THIS GIRL... SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S APOLOGIZ-ING, BUT SHE'S JUST CALLING ME A BAD PERSON...

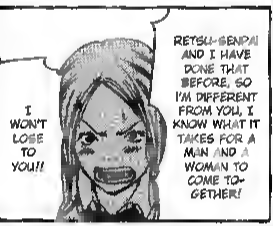
GAAA
ALTHOUGH YOU ACT LIKE THEIR BABY SISTER, YOU ACTUALLY HAVE A THING FOR TETSU AND RETSU-SENPAI, RIGHT?
GYA
CAN'T YOU THINK OF MARI-CHAN'S SITUATION? HER BOYFRIEND'S LIVING TOGETHER WITH ANOTHER GIRL!
GYA
SHE APOLOGIZED TO YOU, BUT YOU DON'T FORGIVE HER? YOU HAVE A COLD HEART, MAKU!
GYA
HOLD IT! I DON'T HAVE A THING FOR THEM!
O! SHIZUKA!
WHO ASKED YOU TO COME TO SCHOOL ALONE?

RETSU-SENPAI
IT'S THE MAKU BROTHERS!
OI! NO! THIS IS NOT THE TIME!
I DON'T WANT TO BE IN THE SITUATION!
SHIZUKA, COME WITH US
DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE HARA
RETSU-SENPAI, TETSU-SENPAI
RETSU!
PISSED
AH! HARA-CHAN IS CRYING AGAIN
RETSU-SENPAI, AREN'T YOU GOING A BIT TOO FAR? I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE CHOOSING YOUR SISTER OVER YOUR GIRLFRIEND!
HAVING A SISTER COMPLEX IS ONE THING BUT HAVING ONE WHEN SHE'S NOT EVEN RELATED TO YOU
ISN'T IT WEIRD?
THIS IS JUST TOO MUCH!

CALL ME WHATEVER YOU WANT.
FOR SHIZUKA, I'LL TAKE ON ANY VERBAL ABUSE YOU THROW AT ME
BUT IF YOU WANT ME TO DO THE SAME FOR A GIRL WHO CRIES FOR NO REASON, I'M SORRY.
WHY.....

UHH... HARA-SAN, THAT ISN'T THE POINT...
SEX IS THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT! DIVORCES HAPPEN BECAUSE OF BAD SEX!
(SEE NOTE)

PUSH
WHY! HOW IS SHE, AN ORDINARY GIRL, BETTER THAN ME?
I WON'T BELIEVE YOU WOULD ACTUALLY SLEEP WITH YOUR SISTER!

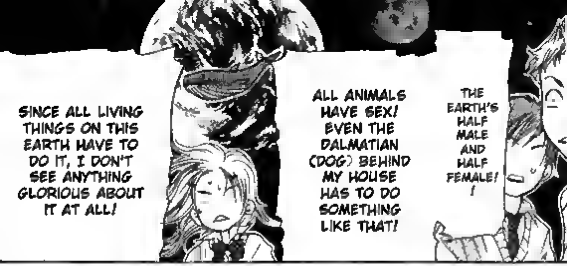

I WON'T LOSE TO YOU!!
RETSU-SENPAI AND I HAVE DONE THAT BEFORE, SO I'M DIFFERENT FROM YOU, I KNOW WHAT IT TAKES FOR A MAN AND A WOMAN TO COME TOGETHER!

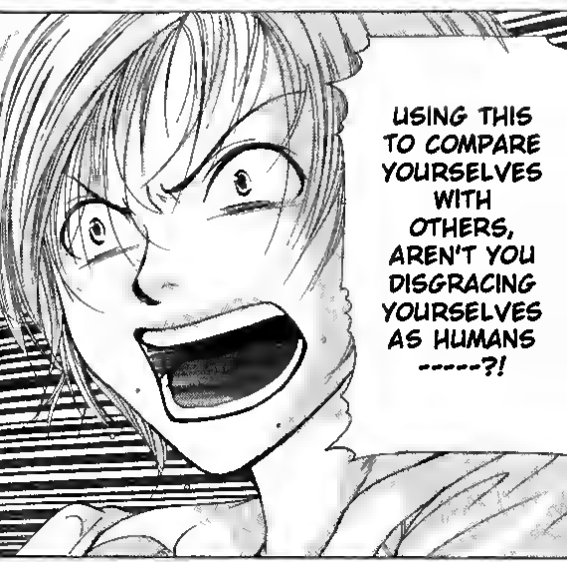
EVERYONE
THE THREE OF YOU ARE SICK
SINCE WE'RE NOT BLOOD RELATED SO WE'RE NOT EXACTLY SIBLINGS.

TALKING SUCH RUBBISH
EVERYONE
(TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: THERE'S A PUN HERE. WHAT SAE MEANT TO SAY WAS THAT SHE PERSONALITY CAUSES INVOICE, BUT SHE SAYS SEX ANYWAY BECAUSE IT SOUNDS ABOUT THE SAME IN JAPANESE SEX = SEIKATSU, PERSONALITY = SEIKAKU)

I'M NOT GOING TO FIGHT WITH YOU...
SHIZUKA! I PROMISE I'LL TEACH YOU WHATEVER YOU NEED YOU KNOW!

AREN'T YOU A BIT NARROW-MINDED, TALKING ABOUT HOW YOU KNOW THE WONDERS OF SEX BECAUSE YOU LOST YOUR VIRGINITY, AND IT'S ALRIGHT IF YOU'RE NOT BLOOD-RELATED.....!
WHY DON'T YOU WIDEN YOUR HORIZONS A BIT BIGGER THAT YOU CAN SEE MORE OF THE SKY THAN FROM THAT TINY WELL!!


SINCE ALL LIVING THINGS ON THIS EARTH HAVE TO DO IT, I DON'T SEE ANYTHING GLORIOUS ABOUT IT AT ALL!
ALL ANIMALS HAVE SEX! EVEN THE DALMATIAN (DOG) BEHIND MY HOUSE HAS TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
THE EARTH'S HALF MALE AND HALF FEMALE!

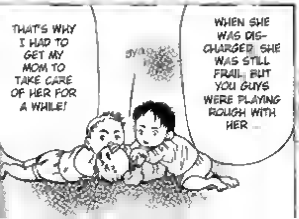

USING THIS TO COMPARE YOURSELVES WITH OTHERS, AREN'T YOU DISGRACING YOURSELVES AS HUMANS -----?!

silence

IS IT ME...?
NO
S SORRY, SHIZUKA
WAOOAAA...
I GUES SHE WINS...
MAKU (SISTER) IS GOOD! SUCH THOUGHT-PROVOKING WORDS!
NO DOUBT YOU'RE MY DAUGHTER!
THAT WAS FANTASTIC!
SHE LOOKS LIKE THAT OLD HAG FROM HOME!
DAUGHTER...?
OLD HAG
MOM...?

SO... THIS MEANS
I TOOK THEM OUT BECAUSE I NOTICED YOU GUYS HAD SOME SORT OF MISUNDERSTANDING
I'D TAKE THIS BEFORE WORK, NOW THAT'S
LOOK, THIS IS SHIZUKA'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND MY MOM'S LETTER.
SLAM

YOU LIAR! THEN WHY, WHEN WE WERE YOUNG...
HEY! RETSU!!
BECAUSE WHEN SHIZUKA WAS BORN, SHE HAD TO STAY IN HOSPITAL FOR A WHOLE YEAR!


THAT'S WHY I HAD TO GET MY MOM TO TAKE CARE OF HER FOR A WHILE!
WHEN SHE WAS DISCHARGED, SHE WAS STILL FRAIL, BUT YOU GUYS WERE PLAYING ROUGH WITH HER...

I'M ACTUALLY RELATED TO EVERYONE...?

SO, HARA-CHAN'S RUMOUR ABOUT MAKI (SISTER) BEING AD-OPTED IS WRONG...?
RUN!
WHEN SHIZUKA WAS YOUNG, SHE LOOKED LIKE ME, JUST THAT THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE IN DEVELOPMENT.
WHAT... BUT SHI-ZUKA DOESN'T LOOK LIKE US...

SHIZUKA, WHAT DO YOU THINK...
IS IT FOR REAL...? WHY DO I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING LIED TO!

GREAT...
EVERY-THING'S GREAT...
I'M SO HAPPY I'M RELATED TO YOU GUYS...
THEN...
Inuka
THAT'S GOOD SHIZUKA...

I SHOULD GO NOW.
I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU, TETSU.
MOM
ACTUALLY, I STILL HAVE SOME THINGS I DON'T GET AND I DON'T THINK RETSU HAS NOTICED THEM JUST YET...
COULD YOU ANSWER THEM?
LEAVE IT TILL LATER.
AFTER ALL, AREN'T THE THREE OF YOU HAPPY JUST THE WAY IT IS?
IF I CONTINUE FEELING LIKE THIS I CAN JUST FORGET ABOUT GETTING A BOYFRIEND...!
THE BATTLE HAS JUST STARTED!

"MAKU SIBLINGS" DECISIONS 1

I WON'T GIVE YOU ANY SPECIAL PRIVILEGES!
RYOKO MAKU AGE 37 OCCUPATION NURSE (BY THE WAY, SHE'S A SISTER)
THAT'S WHY I'M IN CHARGE OF HOUSE-WORK

brought to you by

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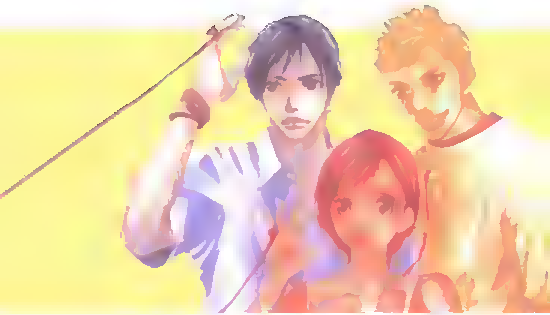

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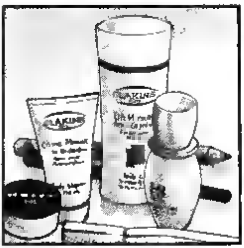
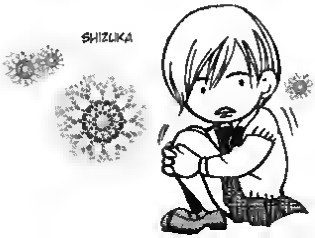
CHAPTER 2





SHE'S THE PROTAGONIST. I WASN'T REALLY WILLING TO DRAW HER AT FIRST BECAUSE SHE'S TOO ORDINARY. BUT SHE'LL CONTINUE TO LIVE, SO BE NICE TO HER!

SEXY WILD CAT, NUMBER 1 IN EVERY-ONE'S EYES!
IT'S TIME FOR ME TO CATCH SOME GUYS!!
HA!
HO!
NOW...
SHIZUKA MAKU (16)
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SHI-ZUKA! IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE GOOD SELF-IMAGE!
YOU'RE REALLY EMBAR-RASSING IN THE MORNING... CAN'T YOU A BIT MORE NORMAL...

slam
IF YOU DON'T SHOW THE NIMBLENESS OF A WILD ANIMAL, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO GET OVER A HUNDRED MEN...
ALL MARTIAL ARTISTS KNOW...
YAWN
BREAKFAST
TETSU MAKU (17)
RETSU MAKU (17)
STOP TALKING TO HER ALREADY, SHIZUKA
WHAT "WILD ANIMAL"? NO MATTER HOW WILD THE MAN IS, WHEN THEY LOOK AT HER, THEY'LL RUN AWAY IN A SPLIT SECOND!

IF YOU HAVE SO MUCH TIME TO MODEL YOURSELF IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR, WHY DON'T YOU GO MAKE SOMETHING?! DON'T FORGET THE SALAD!
SHIZUKA
SALAD? DON'T WASTE MY TIME! SEE THE GRASS IN THE YARD! GO EAT THAT!
WHAT DO YOU THINK WE ARE, RABBITS?!
ENOUGH! I'LL MAKE IT, SO PLEASE STOP FIGHTING!
REALLY?
I LOVE YOU, SHIZUKA ♡
UGH... AS IF THEIR NORMAL SELF ISN'T EYE-PIERCING ENOUGH.
MY FAMILY MEMBERS ARE ALL BE WITHFUL.
I THINK THE REASON WHY I LOOK SO ORDINARY IS BECAUSE I TAKE AFTER MY DECEASED FATHER.

MY FATHER NEVER LEFT ANYTHING FOR ME TO REMEMBER HIM BY.

AI — IF HE WERE ALIVE, THEN PERHAPS HE COULD UNDERSTAND MY PLIGHT OF BEING A SPARROW SURROUNDED BY PEACOCKS

BASED ON THIS PHOTOGRAPH, HE LOOKS REALLY ORDINARY

Chirp Chirp

OH YEAH, SHIZUKA, YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY MEMENTOS FROM YOUR FATHER,

SO YOU CAN HAVE THIS!

HE GAVE THIS TO ME AS A PRESENT.

DON'T TAKE THAT, SHIZUKA! I'LL BUY A BETTER ONE FOR YOU!

WON'T SILVER CHANGE COLOR IF YOU DON'T WEAR IT OFTEN?

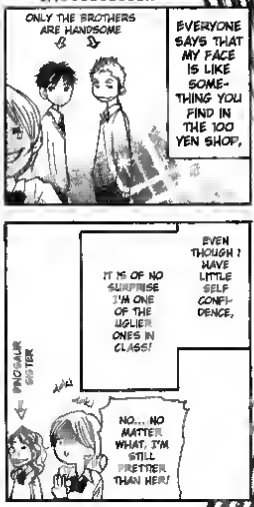
I DON'T THINK YOU ACTUALLY WANTED TO KEEP IT!

WASN'T THAT THE RING YOU SAID WAS "TOO CHEAP AND HOW DID HE HAVE THE CHEEK TO GIVE IT TO ME!" AND YOU AND DAD GOT INTO A FIGHT BECAUSE OF IT?

SO PRETTY

DAD
I FEEL LIKE SOMETHING GOOD IS GOING TO HAPPEN
PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME!

SFX: DOOOOOOON

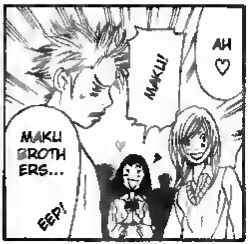

ONLY THE BROTHERS ARE HANDSOME
EVERYONE SAYS THAT MY FACE IS LIKE SOMETHING YOU FIND IN THE 100 YEN SHOP,
EVEN THOUGH I HAVE LITTLE SELF CONFIDENCE,
IT IS OF NO SURPRISE I'M ONE OF THE UGLIER ONES IN CLASS!
DINOSAUR SISTER
AHH
NO... NO MATTER WHAT, I'M STILL PRETTIER THAN HER!

NO WAY! IS THAT... A CONFESSION?!

I'M KOU REIKI FROM 2-D
2-D

BUZZ OFF!

reiki


AH ♡
MAKU!!
MAKU BROTH ERS...
EEP!

ズァッ
WHOA! THIS IS THE PARTING OF THE RED SEA!!
EVERYONE HAS PARTED INTO 2 GROUPS
SFX: SEPERATE

WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM, THE MAFIA? AND THAT REIKI GUY IS...
ACCORDING TO MY SOURCES, SOME GUY NAMED REIKI CONFESSED TO SHIZUKA! YOU SHOULD TEACH THOSE PEOPLE IN YOUR CLASS MORE PROPERLY!
THAT....
hmm
OI, TETSU, ISN'T THAT GUY FROM YOUR CLASS?
LET'S LOOK FOR HIM!
AH! YOU ARE...
hmm
THAT'S ME!
WA! IT'S THE MAKU BROTHERS!

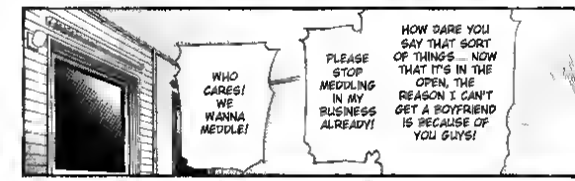
WHO ARE YOU?
I'M REIKI ...
WE'VE BEEN IN THE SAME CLASS FOR 2 YEARS...
SO I DON'T EXIST IN YOUR EYES!
2-D
WHAT KIND OF JOKE IS THIS!!
YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE SHIZUKA'S BOYFRIEND!!
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE REIKI?!
LOOKS THAT ARE JUST PLAIN ORDINARY, AND I GET THE FEELING THAT YOUR LIFE WILL BE VERY SHORT!

I'VE DECIDED TO GO STEADY WITH REIKI-SENPAI!
DON'T YOU STILL HAVE IDIOTS FROM LONG AGO WHO STILL LOVE YOU?
ARE YOU SURE?! SHIZUKA, CAN'T YOU CHOOSE SOMEONE BETTER? HE LOOKS LIKE SOME HUMAN DOG!
A CHIHUAHUA TO BOOT
CHIHUAHUA
Nº7

WHO ARE THEY ?
SHI-SHIZUKA! DON'T WE TELL YOU THAT WE LOVE YOU EVERY DAY?!
HERE COMES YOUR STUPIDITY AGAIN. HOW CAN SIBLINGS DATE EACH OTHER!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING! SO, WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO OUT WITH REIKI?!
BECAUSE HE LIKES ME. .
BOTH OF YOU WON'T UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL., BECAUSE YOU GUYS HAVE TONS OF GIRLS AROUND YOU. .
BUT WHEN SOMEONE SAYS THAT TO ME I WOULD HAPPILY SAY "THANK YOU" TO HIM

SO IT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T HAD A BOYFRIEND FOR 16 YEARS AND YOU'RE FEELING DESPERATE

I UNDERSTAND


WHO CARES! WE WANNA MEDDLE!
PLEASE STOP MEDDLING IN MY BUSINESS ALREADY!
HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT SORT OF THINGS... NOW THAT IT'S IN THE OPEN, THE REASON I CAN'T GET A BOYFRIEND IS BECAUSE OF YOU GUYS!

2-D
MAKU

AND, ARE WE REALLY BLOOD SIBLINGS?

MA-MAKU, I KNOW YOU REALLY CARE FOR YOUR SISTER
BUT SHIZUKA AND I ARE DIFFERENT FROM YOU. WE'RE ORDINARY PEOPLE, SO PLEASE STOP IT!

SHIZUKA IS TOO GOOD FOR YOU!
WHICH PART OF HER DO YOU ACTUALLY LIKE?
SHIZUKA'S ORDINARY ...?
SHE REALLY IS ORDINARY!
MAKU HAS A SISTER COMPLEX.
SORRY! SORRY!
I JUST HAD TO CHANGE MY SHIRT, THAT'S ALL.
IT'S NOTHING ... IT'S ALL COOL NOW.
MY BROTHER ATTACKED YOU? I'M REALLY SORRY!
Ei

FULLY ENJOYING MY YOUTH!! CAN YOU STAY BY MY SIDE AND PROTECT ME?
SO LUCKY.
DAD, I'M STILL ...
THE WARM SUN SHINES ON MY BODY ..... MY BOYFRIEND SITTING NEXT TO ME,
EATING THE SANDWICH I MADE MAKES ME FEEL MORE LIKE BEING A GIRL-FRIEND...
AHH, SUCH HAPPY STEPS...
CHUMP
CHUMP
CHUMP

BUT, IT'S SO DIFFICULT TO TELL HIM---
THIS ONLY MAKES MY HEART FEEL EVEN TIGHTER...
IT'S LIKE SAYING "I CAN SEE YOUR NOSE HAIR"
HMM? WHAT'S WRONG?

chump
chump
chump

HE... HE EATS WITH HIS MOUTH OPEN...

GRIN
GRIN

ONLY BECAUSE THE TWO HAVE JUST STARTED DATING, THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE TWO HAS SLOWLY SHORTENED. THAT'S WHY SHE'S ABLE TO NOTICE EVERY SINGLE MINUTE DETAIL, BUT...
LOOK, ISN'T HE A NICE PERSON? I MUST NOT TAKE NOTICE OF THE TINY THINGS!!
SHE KEEPS STARING AT ME...

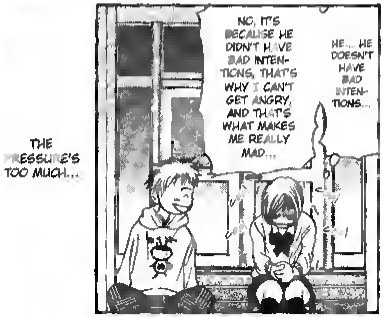
I ONLY SPENT 980 YEN ON THIS SHIRT! IT'S NOT OBVIOUS, RIGHT?
PROUD
WHY IS HE SO PROUD ?!
I DON'T GET WHY GIRLS WANT TO SPEND SO MUCH MONEY ON CLOTHES, SUCH IDIOTS!!
SUCH A WEIRD SWEAT-SHIRT
NOW... A DESCRIPTION SLOWLY DIFFUSES INTO SHIZUKA'S MIND...
COMMON CIVILIAN...
slurp
WHAT AM I DOING! HOW CAN I BE SO RUDE
DON'T DAY-DREAM! FOCUS SHI-ZUKA!
AGH!

WHICH PART OF ME DO YOU LIKE?
UMM...
UHH... REIKI-SENPAI, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
WHAT?
BECAUSE I'M ORDINARY, THAT'S WHY I THINK WE GET ALONG JUST FINE!
REALLY
I REALLY DISLIKE GIRLS WHO ARE REALLY PRETTY AND ACT HAUGHTY!
I ALWAYS FEEL LIKE I'M BEING MADE FUN OF BY THEM, THAT'S WHY I LIKE A GIRL WHOM I CAN RELATE TO
THE PART THAT MAKES YOU AN ORDINARY PERSON!
direct
WHAT!

DO YOU THINK I'M AN IDIOT?!

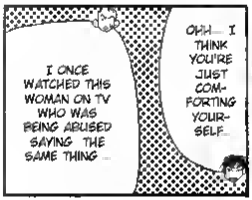
chuckle

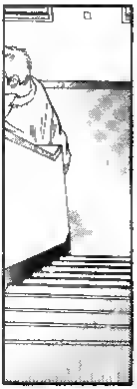
I NEVER KNEW "GOING STEADY" WAS SO TOUGH...


THE PRESSURE'S TOO MUCH...
NO, IT'S BECAUSE HE DIDN'T HAVE BAD INTENTIONS, THAT'S WHY I CAN'T GET ANGRY, AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME REALLY MAD...
HE... HE DOESN'T HAVE BAD INTENTIONS...

IT'S MY FAULT I'M BEING SO TOUGH ON HIM
REIKI-SENPAI IS A GOOD PERSON

AHAHA! YOU'VE GOTTEN SO USED TO US A-GRADES, SO THAT DOG WON'T BE ENOUGH TO SATISFY YOU!
I DON'T THINK WE HAVE TO MEDDLE ANYWAY
IT-IT'S NOT THAT BAD!
STOP MAKING FUN OF ME!


I ONCE WATCHED THIS WOMAN ON TV WHO WAS BEING ABUSED SAYING THE SAME THING...
OHH... I THINK YOU'RE JUST COMFORTING YOURSELF...



WAHA-HAHA!
THAT'S RIGHT
pat
IT'S BETTER IF YOU BREAK UP, LADY

I DON'T CARE WHETHER THEY'RE YOUR BROTHERS OR NOT. I DON'T WANT YOU HANGING OUT WITH BOYS WHO ARE GOOD-LOOKING!
HUH? BUT THEY'RE MY BROTH-ERS...
I DON'T WANT YOU TALKING TO OTHER GUYS!!
DON'T DENY IT!
BUT I DON'T
BEFORE SCHOOL, BUMPING INTO EACH OTHER BETWEEN CLASSES EVEN DURING THE 3RD PERIOD BREAK.....
WHOA... WHY IS HE LIKE THE FBI, TAKING NOTICE OF MY EVERY MOVE...
I FEEL THAT...
DON'T YOU LET THEM GENTLY TOUCH YOU...

I'D RATHER CALL HIM "WEAK THAT'S WHY HE'S SO NICE" BECAUSE HE'S AFRAID OF BEING REJECTED, AFRAID OF BEING A FOOL THAT'S WHY HE ALWAYS PUTS ON A "NICE GUY" PERSONA
AH, ARE YOU ANGRY? I THINK I WENT A BIT TOO FAR
EVEN IF YOU CALL HIM A GOOD PERSON
EVEN THOUGH HE'S NICE I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO LIKE HIM!
EVEN THOUGH IT'S OLD SCHOOL BUT I JUST FEEL THAT...
EVEN THOUGH YOU MIGHT THINK OF ME AS STUBBORN, BUT I...
UHH...
WHAT...

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS! IF I WERE TO BE DUMPED BY A PRETTY GIRL, THAT WOULD BE ALRIGHT, BUT A PLAIN GIRL LIKE YOU?!
IT MUST BE BECAUSE OF THE PERSON WHO GAVE YOU THIS RING. RIGHT???
WAIT... DON'T TOUCH IT! IT'S REALLY FRAGILE!!
DON'T TOUCH IT.....?
AH!
I'M THROWING IT AWAY!
THAT'S A PRESENT FROM MY DAD!
I'LL THROW IT REALLY FAR AWAY!
WA-WAIT!!
WHA...
slip

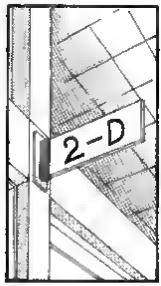
EVEN THOUGH NO MATTER WHAT I WRITE WILL BE TOTALLY ALRIGHT, I FEEL THAT I HAVE TO WRITE SOMETHING MEANINGFUL...

NUM (2)

BECAUSE OF THIS PROJECT I HAD TO BUY HIGH SCHOOL CLOTHES JUST TO GET THE FEEL OF IT...

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT HER, SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AT ALL

NOW, THIS DRAWING LOOKS REALLY BAD!



SHIZUKA
!?
SHIP
SHIP
AHAAAAAAA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU IDIOT!!
I CAN'T HOLD ON
HURRY UP AND USE YOUR OTHER HAND TO GRAB HOLD OF SOME-THING

IF HE DROPS IT, I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER FIND IT.
NO, IF IT'S SPOILT BEFORE THAT, IT WOULD.

IF HE LETS GO...
DAD'S RING WILL...!

... YOU BETTER NOT LET GO!
YOU ....
ALL BE THIS PERSON'S FAULT!!

THAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME...

YOU CAN'T COMPARE TO IT,
DAD...

OH! THAT GIRL'S GOING TO FALL TOO!
SHIZUKA ?!
I'VE NEVER HAD ANYTHING TO REMEMBER DAD BY!

STRETCH OUT YOUR OTHER HAND!!
I LIED WHEN I SAID THAT MY DAD GAVE IT TO ME! IT'S JUST A CHEAP RING! HURRY!!
SORRY...

EVEN THOUGH HE'S HOLDING ON WITH BOTH HANDS, THAT PERSON WON'T BE ABLE TO PULL HIM UP!!
AND SHE'S JUST A GIRL...
AAAA
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO GET TO THE A-WING, LET'S TAKE A SHORTCUT!
RUN
RETSU! DID YOU SEE? THERE'S A WINDOW FACING THAT WING!!
JUMP
GAR-!
USE MY BACK AS A STEPPING STONE!!
TETSU!!
THE GUY AT THE WINDOW, SCRAM!

SUTA
TETSU!
SHIZUKA!
Yuu!

waaaaaaaa
THE BROTHERS AREN'T JUST ANYONE!!
AMAZING... CAN ANYONE ACTUALLY JUMP THAT FAR----?
2-D
DIE!!
S-SORRY...!
shiver shiver
FORGET IT, NO ONE GOT HURT ANYWAY...
I'LL GO HOME AND PREPARE DINNER NOW.
YOU SHOULD HAVE DIED!!
FORGET IT.
BUT I WAS SCARED TO DEATH!

WHA-WHAT WAS THAT FOR!! YOU'RE ACTUALLY BULLYING SOMEONE WEAKER THAN YOURSELF----!!
STOP CALLING YOURSELF WEAK AND FOLLOW ME!
PUNCH
BLOCK
THANK GOODNESS BECAUSE SHE SAID THAT THE RING WAS A GIFT FROM HER DAD. THAT'S WHY I GOT WORRIED...
IN THE END, IT WASN'T THE CASE LUCKY ME
sigh
THAT'S WHY I SAID THAT YOU'RE NOT FIT FOR SHIZUKA.

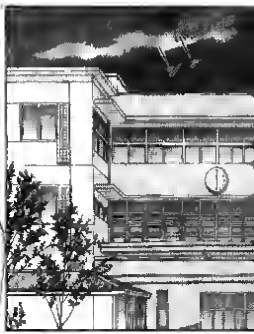
search
search
search
WHERE IS IT...
AH!
AH...
search
search
PLEASE ... HURRY UP AND APPEAR.

I'M SORRY
I'M SORRY
I'M SORRY
I'M SORRY, DAD.....!

YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO!

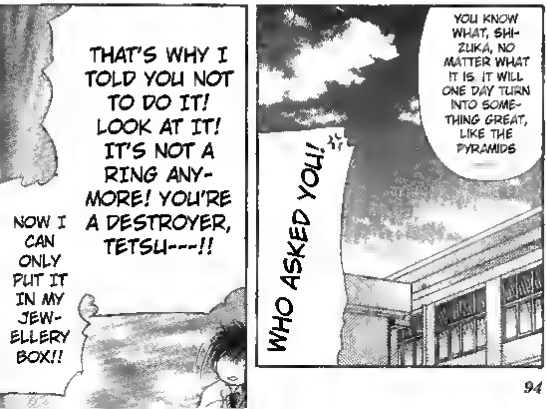
DON'T TALK TO HER!
AH.
I...

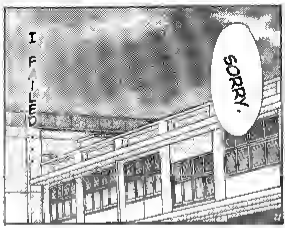
sob

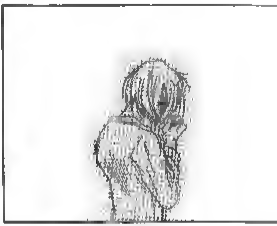


YEAH!
HUH? TETSU?
YOU HAVEN'T GONE BACK YET?

SNAP
DON'T! YOU'RE REALLY ROUGH
IS IT SPOILT? LEMME SEE
YOU KNOW WHAT, SHIZUKA, I ACTUALLY WON A PRIZE WHEN I TOOK PART IN THAT ART CLASS IN YEAR 3!
AH
.....


YOU KNOW WHAT, SHIZUKA, NO MATTER WHAT IT IS, IT WILL ONE DAY TURN INTO SOMETHING GREAT, LIKE THE PYRAMIDS
WHO ASKED YOU!
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU NOT TO DO IT! LOOK AT IT! IT'S NOT A RING ANYMORE! YOU'RE A DESTROYER, TETSU---!!
NOW I CAN ONLY PUT IT IN MY JEWELLERY BOX!!


I FAILED...
SORRY.



FAILED...
NOW I'M EVEN DUMBER THAN THAT BOY!
REALLY...

HAHA... AFTER SHOUTING AT YOU LIKE THAT, I FEEL MUCH BETTER NOW.
THANKS, TETSU

EVEN IF YOU'RE MY SISTER
OR NOT,
WHAT?
I WILL FOREVER BE BY YOUR SIDE.....

1-B
I'M SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY!
A GUY IS ACTUALLY APOLOGISING TO YOU! SHIZUKA, YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING!
IF YOU CAN GET HIM TO PAY YOU 100,000 YEN, YOU'D OFFICIALLY BE A PROFESSIONAL LADY!!
"PROFESSIONAL LADY"... YOU MEAN THAT IN A DIFFERENT WAY, RIGHT?!
I'M NOT THAT GULLIBLE!!
wa!
wa!
I'LL REPLACE THAT RING, NO MATTER HOW EXPENSIVE IT IS!
HUH? WHY?
BECAUSE [illegible] WASN'T THAT A PRESENT FROM YOUR FATHER? LET ME REPLACE IT!
DON'T BOTHER, IT'S A CHEAP THING ANYWAY.

DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF,
BECAUSE IT'S REALLY CHEAP
MAKU'S BROTHER UNDERSTANDS
I USED TO THINK THAT BECAUSE HER REALLY ATTRACTIVE BROTHERS WERE AT HER SIDE, SHE WAS JUST ORDINARY
SHIZUKA'S ORDINARY?
WHICH PART OF HER DO YOU ACTUALLY LIKE?
WHICH PART OF HER DO I ACTUALLY LIKE?

I AM NOT FIT TO GO OUT WITH HER
BUT NOW, WHEN I LOOK AT HER, SHE'S ACTUALLY QUITE BEAUTIFUL
leave
LET'S BREAK UP!
I DON'T KNOW HOW I SHOULD SAY THIS, BUT I...
UHH REIKI-SENPAI,
BY BREAKING UP WITH YOU WITHOUT ANY ANIMOSITY...
IS THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR YOU...

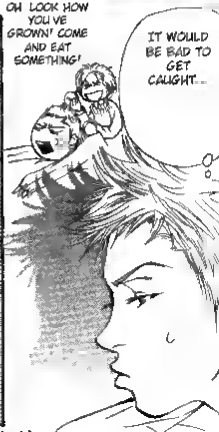
GYAHAHAHAHA!!
YOU WEREN'T EVEN TOGETHER FOR A MONTH!!
DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT!!
YOU GOT DUMPED!
YOU...
WHY?
W...
WHILE SHIZUKA'S IN CLASS
COMPLAINING ABOUT THE BREAK-UP,
BAKA YOU
THAT GUY NEEDS TO BE A BIT MORE UNDERSTANDING!
WHY DOES IT SEEM TO BE THE OTHER WAY ROUND?!
WAIT, I WAS THE ONE DOING THE DUMPING ...

MAKU'S HOUSE

Open
I'M SURE SHIZUKA AND TETSU ARE ALREADY IN SCHOOL.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I FORGOT MY WALLET.

OLD HAG HAS FRIENDS OVER?
HUH?

THAT'S RIGHT, THERE ARE 30 MEN APPLYING.
THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY PROBLEMS FOR SUCH A REALITY LIKE YOU!
WHAT THE HECK
RYOKO, YOU DON'T WANT TO RE-MARRY?


OH LOOK HOW YOU'VE GROWN! COME AND EAT SOMETHING!
IT WOULD BE BAD TO GET CAUGHT...

doom

HUH? AREN'T THERE JUST TWO?
THREE CHILDREN.
ARE YOUR TWO CHILDREN ALL GROWN UP NOW?

WHY? RE-MARRYING IS GOOD! ISN'T IT HARD TO PAY FOR THE HOUSE?
BUT I DON'T WANT TO RE-MARRY.

RYOKO, YOU DIDN'T BRING BACK THAT CHILD TOO, DID YOU.....?

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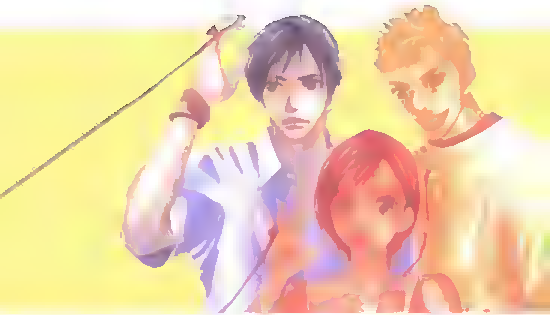

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CHAPTER 3

MAIN

HEY! WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!
SHIZU-KA'S
NOT OUR SISTER, IS SHE?!

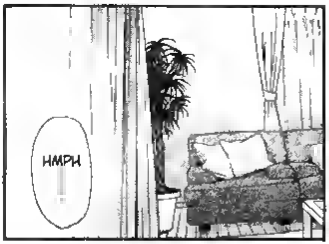
RETSU
HE'S THE NICEST TO DRAW OUT OF THE THREE. BUT HIS HEAD... LOOKING AT HIS HEAD JUST MAKES YOU THINK HE'S NOT ALL THAT SMART, OR IS IT JUST ME...?

DON'T LIE!! AS IF YOU COULD TALK ABOUT ANYTHING THAT HIGH CLASS, YOU WEIRD OLD HAG!
WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE TIME WE WENT TO GREECE!
IT LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE WHAT'S IN A TRAVEL BOOK

TAKE THAT YOU UNGRATEFUL BRAT!
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF GUTS TO CALL ME "WEIRD"!

I DEFINITELY HEARD THE WORDS "YOU DIDN'T BRING BACK THAT CHILD TOO, DID YOU!"
THAT'S RIGHT! YOUR FRIEND SAID THAT!
YOU MUST HAVE MISHEARD IT, WE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING

PLUS, IF YOU REALLY WANTED TO KNOW, WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK ME DIRECTLY?
I THINK YOU'RE JUST SCARED.


HMPH

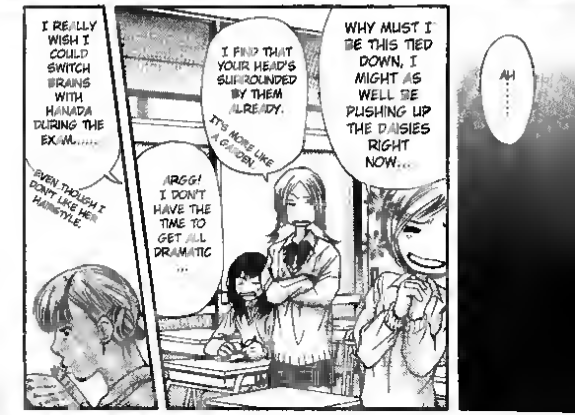
RETSU, DON'T THINK THAT I DON'T KNOW YOU'RE TRYING TO ACT LIKE AN AMERICAN RIGHT NOW
heh heh heh
YOU UNDER-ESTIMATE ME, AND I'M REALLY HURT. I'M NOT AS STUPID AS YOU THINK I AM, YOU KNOW

LET ME TELL YOU THIS, THE WORLD ISN'T THAT SIMPLE THAT EVEN A FOOL WOULD KNOW THE ANSWER

DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT THAT BEFORE?
EVEN IF YOU KNOW THE TRUTH, YOU CAN'T GO BACK AND CHANGE THE PAST.

BUT... LET'S MAKE A DEAL.
IF YOU ARE ABLE TO SCORE FIRST PLACE DURING THE NEXT TEST, I WOULD THINK ABOUT IT.
BUT THAT WOULD BE HIGHLY IMPOSSIBLE.
EXAMINABLE TOPICS
1-B
ENGLISH PAGES 126-178, BIOLOGY PAGES 185-278
MATH PAGES 91-167.

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO FINISH STUDYING ALL THESE PAGES!
TEACHER!!!
THAT'S 489 PAGES WORTH OF EXAMINABLE TOPICS!!
FORGET IT, SHIZUKA. WHY DON'T YOU USE THE TIME CALCULATING THE NUMBER OF PAGES ON ACTUAL MATH?

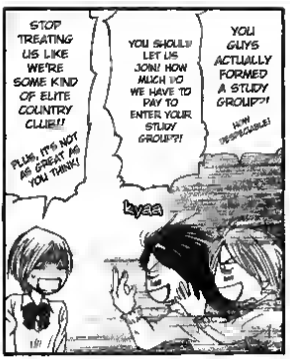

I REALLY WISH I COULD SWITCH BRAINS WITH HANADA DURING THE EXAM.....
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T LIKE HER HAIRSTYLE.
I FIND THAT YOUR HEAD'S SURROUNDED BY THEM ALREADY.
IT'S MORE LIKE A GARDEN.
ARGG! I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO GET ALL DRAMATIC ...
WHY MUST I BE THIS TIED DOWN, I MIGHT AS WELL BE PUSHING UP THE DAISIES RIGHT NOW...
AH.....

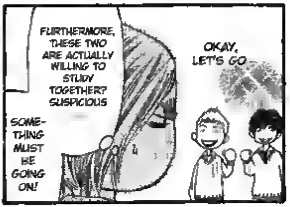
ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT HANADA'S ALWAYS STUDYING, EVEN IF SHE WAS OUTSIDE AND IT'S RAINING?
SHE'S SO STRONG
HEY! I DIDN'T EXPECT A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL TO UNDERSTAND HOW A TRUE STUDY NERD FEELS!!!
NOT AFRAID OF THE WIND OR THE SUN
HMM...
FORGET IT, GIRL, DON'T YOU HAVE TWO BROTHERS WHO STUDY IN THE SAME SCHOOL AS YOU?
I'VE GOT TO LEARN FROM HANADA
"EVEN IF I DON'T HAVE AN EDUCATION, I CAN BE LIKE SHUUKICHI AND EASE THROUGH LIFE!!"
YEAH RIGHT! FORGET ABOUT TETSU, RETSU ONLY KNOWS HOW TO SAY
— HUH...?
STUDYING TOGETHER WITH SUCH HANDSOME BROTHERS
HOW NICE
YOU COULD ASK THEM TO TEACH YOU THE TRICKS OF THE TRADE!

IN ORDER TO MAKE IT IN THE 21ST CENTURY, ONE MUST STUDY HARD!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SHIZUKA?
HEY, WHY ARE YOU IN MY CLASS-ROOM!
WE'RE GOING TO THE LIBRARY TO STUDY, YOU SHOULD COME AS WELL
WANNA COME ALONG?

NO WAY!

RETSU, TIME TO STUDY.
I DON'T WANT TO BE SCOLDED BECAUSE OF YOU!
TETSU (JS)
WHEN THE BOTH OF THEM WERE TAKING THEIR JUNIOR HIGH EXAMS


STOP TREATING US LIKE WE'RE SOME KIND OF ELITE COUNTRY CLUB!!
PLUS, IT'S NOT AS GREAT AS YOU THINK!
YOU SHOULD LET US JOIN! HOW MUCH DO WE HAVE TO PAY TO ENTER YOUR STUDY GROUP?!
YOU GUYS ACTUALLY FORMED A STUDY GROUP?!
HOW PRESUMPTUOUS!
kyaa

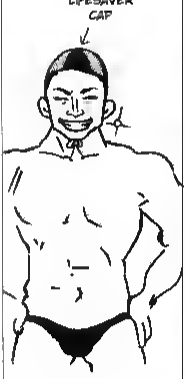

FURTHERMORE, THESE TWO ARE ACTUALLY WILLING TO STUDY TOGETHER? SUSPICIOUS
SOMETHING MUST BE GOING ON!
OKAY, LET'S GO

I ALREADY TOLD YOU I'LL STUDY NOW
AH, I'LL DO IT NOW...
RETSU (15)
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID JUST NOW
HURRY UP!
SLOW POKE
DON'T WORRY IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN
REALLY?
YOU GUYS WERE FIGHTING EVERYDAY, EVEN I GOT TIRED TRYING TO STOP YOU.
THE WORLD'S SMARTEST KID IS FIGHTING WITH THE WORLD'S STUPIDEST KID!!
WHY MUST I KEEP TELLING YOU THINGS THAT A MOTHER SHOULD TELL YOU!!
ARE YOU REALLY MY SON?
IT'S YOUR FAULT I DON'T FEEL LIKE STUDYING!
KICK
KICK
SHIZUKA (14)

I'LL WORK HARD
TRUST ME!
touch
RETSU... WHAT'S WRONG?

EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT BE TOTALLY UNRELATED, IT IS STILL SOMETHING I REALLY CARE ABOUT

NUMBER (3)



THIS HUNK'S LACK OF TASTE IS AROUND 170%!!

(THIS NUMBER WAS SURPASSED EVEN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE TAKING THE BULLET TRAIN DURING SUMMER)

STOP FORCING YOURSELF AND COME WITH ME. YOU NEED SOME REST.
I'M GOING TO KILL HIM!
I'M ALR...
SFX: PUNCH

YOU BETTER NOT MAKE HER WORRIED.
I KNOW

SHIZUKA'S VERY OBSERVANT.

BECAUSE OF SHIZUKA I PLAN TO GET FIRST PLACE AND GET THAT OLD HAG TO 'FESS UP TO EVERYTHING
LEAVE IT TO ME!

I'LL SHOW HER THE POWERS OF A GUY WHO DOESN'T STUDY HARD AND PLAYS ALL THE TIME!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOW HER ANYTHING! JUST START STUDYING ALREADY!
sfx: DAA

COULD YOU TEACH ME, TETSU?
THE GREAT NUMBER ONE TETSU TEACHING ME, I WILL BE ALRIGHT!!
ALRIGHT. WE'LL START WITH THE EASIER SUBJECT THEN, LIKE MATHS.
..... THEN YOU CHANGE IT ONCE
THEN SUBSTITUTE Θ INTO THE EQUATION
IS THIS TEXTBOOK?
UNDERSTAND?

WHAT LANGUAGE WAS THAT?!
WHAT KIND OF EXPRESSION IS THAT
THEY'RE REALLY NOT LAUGHING!!
hahaha
hahaha
hahaha
hahaha
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE WHOLE THING! DON'T YOU KNOW THAT?!
THEN STOP FORCING YOURSELF!
SO, TELL ME WHICH PART
YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND
ho!
CRASH BANG BANG BANG

TETSU, RETSU, BE QUIET
AH... SORRY.

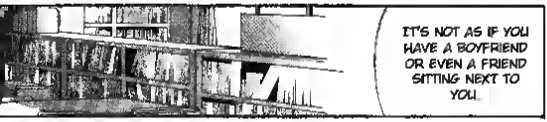
GUYS
AHEM
IT'S HANADA !!
SHAW
SHAW

徒然草
THE #7TH PART IS ALWAYS EXAMINED ON
SO YOU'LL BE EXAMINED ON TOZENSOU
THE FEELING FILLS MY INNER ROOM, LIKE A MONK FLOWING IN THE WIND...

I SAY WE CHANGE TOPICS...?
YEAH... WHEN LOOK AT THOSE FORMULAS, I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN JINXED.
IT MUST BE A CURSE!
LET'S STUDY LITERATURE. I'M FAR BETTER AT THAT.
FUU

LIKE A MONK FLOWING IN THE WIND?!
IT'S TOO CONFUSING! WHY DOES THE JAPANESE EDUCATION SYSTEM MAKE US STUDY THIS KIND OF LITERATURE.....?
THAT'S WEIRD---- SUCH RUBBISH... HOW CAN MONKS FLOW IN THE WIND!
QUIET!
I SAY...
SFX: STAND

PLEASE LEAVE THIS PLACE!
THERE ARE PEOPLE HERE WHO WANT TO STUDY!
I'M SORRY, WE'LL LEAVE— LET'S GO, TETSU, RETSU!
OK!
SHINWATABE
PAINKILLERS
60錠
シャラ
SFX RATTLE
HEY--- WHY IS SHE TAKING THOSE PAINKILLERS LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW?!
SHE IS DEFINITELY SUICIDAL!!
swallow
swallow
swallow
HOW OLD ARE THEY, STICKING SO CLOSE TO EACH OTHER LIKE THAT. WHAT IDIOTS!
PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW THE LIMIT ABOUT ANYTHING


IT'S NOT AS IF YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND OR EVEN A FRIEND SITTING NEXT TO YOU.

WHAT...
SFX: KA—

SO STOP BEING SUCH A BUSY-BODY!
RETSU! STOP IT...

AREN'T YOU LIKE AN IDIOT YOURSELF? GETTING GOOD GRADES BUT NOT HAVE ANYONE WHO IS WILLING TO ACTUALLY HANG OUT WITH YOU!

SFX: GRAB
DON'T YOU DARE CONTINUE!
DON'T YOU WANT TO GET FIRST PLACE?
AREN'T YOU SERIOUS ABOUT WORKING HARD?
IF YOU HAVE SO MUCH TIME MINDING SOMEONE ELSE'S BUSINESS, WHY DON'T YOU STUDY!

NO WAY!
HOW COULD I? I'M NOT YOU!
THAT OLD HAG KNOWS VERY WELL I CAN'T DO IT, THAT'S WHY SHE SAID SO!
DINNER IS READY!
I DON'T KNOW!
TETSU, WHERE'S RETSU?
HEY
UH... EVEN THOUGH HE'S NORMALLY QUIET, HIS AURA IS INCREDIBLY STRONG
THAT IDIOT MUST HAVE DROPPED INTO HELL

CAN YOU PLEASE STOP TALKING LIKE A SHOW-GIRL!!
Ei ---- I DON'T REMEM-BER.
DID YOU TELL THEM ANYTHING WEIRD AGAIN?
THEY'RE ACTING REALLY STRANGE.
MOM!

I DON'T REMEMBER ——!

knock knock
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS FAMILY ····?
HOW CAN YOU CALL HER 37 ·····

SFX: OPEN
ガチャ
RETSU
...
IS NOT IN?
HUH?
WELCOME!
AH---- I'VE GOT NO ENERGY
RETSU
SHIZUKA
?
YUP

I THINK HE THOUGHT THAT YOU HAD GIVEN UP, THAT'S WHY HE SAID THOSE THINGS TO YOU.
JUST THAT IF I SEE TETSU, I WOULD END UP FIGHTING WITH HIM.
I AM NOT HIDING,
I HAVE LOTS OF BLANK NOTEBOOKS, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BUY ANY
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE YOURSELF AND STUDY

ARE YOU GUYS HIDING ANYTHING FROM ME?
HEY,

THEN, DO YOU HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO GET FIRST PLACE?
ABOUT THAT.. IF I DON'T GET FIRST PLACE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION

BUT.....

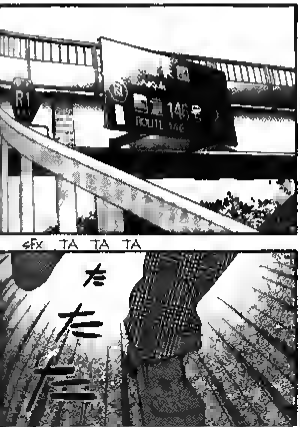
THAT PERCENTAGE HAS SURPASSED EVEN NASA'S SAFETY ZONE...!!
NOPE!! 99.99% NO!
AND I'M NOT LYING.
STRAIGHT TO THE POINT

AND I KNOW THAT I'LL DEFINITELY FAIL, I WILL STILL TRY MY BEST TO DO IT
EVEN IF I DON'T HAVE ANY FAITH IN MYSELF,

BECAUSE I'M NOT THAT SMART.....

I'VE HEARD THAT IF YOU PUT PLUMS ON YOUR FOREHEAD, YOU'LL BECOME SMARTER!!
WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY THINK OF SUCH A WEIRD OLD-WIVES TALES!
OOOOH HH, REALLY ?!
RETSU, YOU'RE BECOMING A MAN! THAT WAS MATURE OF YOU!
LET US WORK HARD TOGETHER!
PHEW

1-B
EXAM DAY
ARGH???? I'M DEAD, I TELL YOU! I HAVEN'T EVEN TOUCHED MY MATHS!!!!!
DO YOU WANT TO STICK ON SOME PLUMS?
CAN SOMEONE STUFF THAT?!
WHO WANTS TO STICK THAT!!
I'M NOT AN OLD LADY!

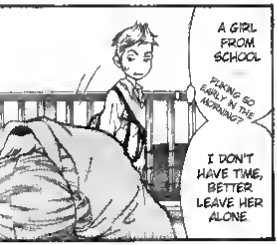

SFX TA TA TA
た
た

RETSU
I WONDER IF HE'S ALRIGHT. I DIDN'T WAKE HIM UP THIS MORNING BECAUSE HE WAS STUDYING SO LATE LAST NIGHT.

PLUS, THAT REALLY FOUL SMELL ...!

I MEMORIZED ALL THE REQUIRED INFORMATION!

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SHORT, I HAD A GOOD SLEEP, SO MY BRAIN'S REALLY FRESH!



RETSU'S HEADING INTO REGRET ZONE AT FULL SPEED!!
I SHOULD HAVE IGNORED HER!!
EI...
DAMN! IT'S THAT GUY...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT? I REMEMBER YOU TAKING THOSE PAINKILLERS
LEAVE ME ALONE... THIS IS JUST PRE-EXAM PRESSURE
LET ME BRING YOU TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE...! LET'S GO!
PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE!
ACTUALLY... I DON'T WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL...

HE ACTUALLY IGNORED ME!!
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS, THAT'S WHY I JUST STUDY,
BUT THIS WAY, STUDYING HAS BECOME MY ONLY COMPANION, AND THAT'S STUPID!
SO JUST IGNORE ME!
Fall
OH NO
THEY ONLY KNOW HOW TO TREAT CUTE GIRLS NICELY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... THAT'S WHY I HATE GUYS WHO ARE FAMOUS
I HAVE NO TIME TO TALK ABOUT YOUR LIFE STORY!
I'M REALLY BUSY
SFX TAN TAN

OI!

SCHOOL IS OFFICIALLY OVER STUDENTS WHO ARE STILL ON CAMPUS PLEASE

RETSU ?!
MORNING'!

I... OVERSLEPT?

WHAT WHY.....

WHY!
"MORNING"... DID YOU JUST ARRIVE?

HAHAHA
AHA
HAHA

sfx: KICK

I SUFFERED A SERIOUS INJURY BECAUSE I WAS TRYING TO PROTECT THAT GIRL!!
TETSU YOU BASTARD!
hit
sfx GA GA

RETSU, COME WITH ME.

THAT'S YOUR PUNISHMENT.
THAT WAS EXTREME TETSU!
DAMN I CAN'T SAY THAT!!
shiver
shiver
shiver
thr-ob thr-ob

スタスタスタスタ
THEY WILL NEVER LISTEN TO ME
THAT'S OBVIOUS NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON IS I'VE BE-TRAYED THEM.
I'M DONE FOR EVEN SHIZLIKA'S ANGRY WITH ME....
thr-ob
STEP STEP STEP

HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? COME HERE!
UH, SHIZUKA
EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NO ONE AROUND, COULD YOU BE A BIT MORE LENIENT ON ME....

NURSE'S OFFICE
ISN'T YOUR LEG HURT?
LET ME SEE!
WHOA? WHAT'S THIS? IT'S ALL BRUISED UP AND YOU CAN STILL BEAR THE PAIN ---
WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED?
AH— UH— I WAS A BIT DROWSY AND I SLIPPED AND FELL DOWN THE STAIRS
LIAR!

ANYTHING ABOUT YOU, RETSU?
HOW WOULD I NOT KNOW
PLUS, THE RETSU WHO IS TALENTED AT SPORTS GETTING INJURED? THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING MORE SERIOUS HAPPENING.
SUPERSTITIOUS GUY
IF THAT WERE SO, YOU WOULDN'T HIDE THE FACT THAT YOUR LEG IS ALL BRUISED!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HE KNOWS!
HE DID THAT ON PURPOSE.
THAT TETSU ACTUALLY DIDN'T NOTICE ANYTHING AND KICKED ME SO HARD!
BUT EVEN THOUGH YOU NOTICED,
REALLY

EVEN THOUGH HE WANTS TO SAY "ARE YOU ALRIGHT?", HE CAN'T BRING HIMSELF TO SAYING IT.
DON'T YOU NOTICE THAT WHEN TETSU WANTS TO BE THE GOOD PERSON, HE WILL DO SOMETHING REALLY STUPID?
HE KICKED YOU BECAUSE HE WANTED TO SHOW ME YOU'RE HURT AND THUS TREAT YOU.
BECAUSE YOU WERE THINKING A LOT.
LIAR!!
WHAT?!
I'M GOING TO KILL HIM!!
BUT YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?

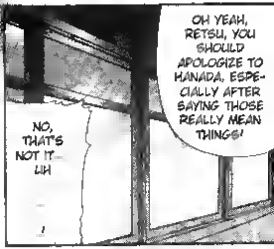
EVEN SO, AFTER 16 YEARS, ANYONE WOULD KNOW THAT...
MAYBE... ANYONE WOULD KNOW THAT...
BECAUSE SHE'S OUR SISTER?
ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME?
WHY DO YOU KNOW EVERY SINGLE THING? YOU'RE LIKE A NOSY OLD LADY!
I REALLY WANNA HUG HER
OR BECAUSE SHE'S SHIZUKA

WOW! THE RESULT OF MY HARD WORD HAS APPEARED
THE RESULTS ARE OUT
A FEW DAYS LATER
MAKI
1-B
DAO, HEIJIN
RETSU!
SORRY
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE GOOD MARKS I AM ACTUALLY THE KIND OF GENIUS WHO ACTUALLY CAN DO WELL IF I WANT TO!
HAHAHA
HOW DID YOU DO?
BUT BECAUSE I FAILED THE 3 SUBJECTS THAT WERE HELD ON THE FIRST DAY SO GETTING FIRST IS IMPOSSIBLE

DON'T SAY THAT ...
EXCUSE ME...

THANK YOU FOR THE OTHER DAY
I HAVEN'T THANKED YOU YET
HANADA ?!

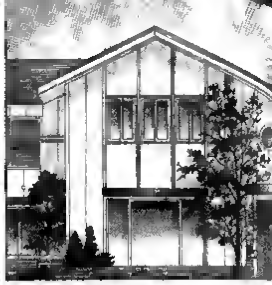
WE'RE EVEN NOW, SO LET'S START OVER!
ALRIGHT?

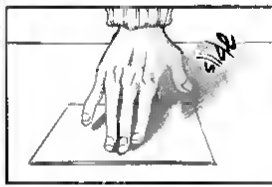

OH YEAH, RETSU, YOU SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO HANADA, ESPECIALLY AFTER SAYING THOSE REALLY MEAN THINGS!
NO, THAT'S NOT IT— UH

EH?
IT'S ALRIGHT

I WANT TO BE JUST LIKE YOU
I REALLY ENVY YOU, MAKU
what?
WHY... SO SUDDENLY
HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT? NOT ONLY AM I PLAIN LOOKING, I'M NOT THAT SMART TOO
WHAT'S THE USE OF BECOMING JUST LIKE ME
YOU'RE RIGHT
I WILL NOT SAY SUCH STUPID THINGS, I'LL WORK HARD AT BEING MYSELF!
haha
TALKING ABOUT SMART...
OAH-- SUCH THICK SKIN. THAT'S WHY I HATE SMART PEOPLE!
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS MEANT TO BE WORDS OF COMFORT, THE MOMENT THE OTHER PARTY AGREED WITH IT, SHIZUKA'S BODY TEMPERATURE FELL TO BELOW FREEZING LEVEL!!

I'VE GOTTEN FIRST PLACE IN EVERY SUBJECT...
EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT RETSU, WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE THAT I REPLACE HIM AND ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS?





PLEASE TELL US..... IS SHIZUKA ADOPTED?

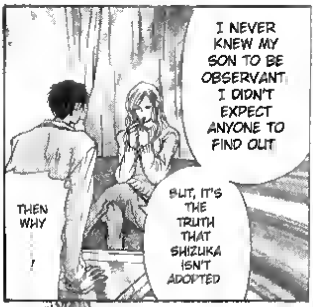
WHOA ------- I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!
IT IS NOT FAIR TO PLACE ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY ON RETSU'S SHOULDERS ALONE... THAT'S WHY I WANT TO HELP HIM OUT.

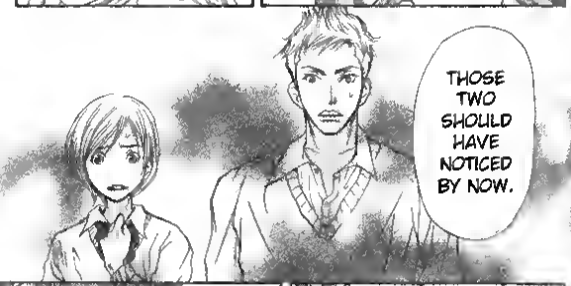
NO.

HEY, TETSU, ARE YOU STILL QUESTIONING THIS? SERIOUSLY
HM...
THEN WHY DID YOU SHOW US A "BIRTH STATEMENT" BUT SAID THAT IT WAS HER "BIRTH RECORD"?

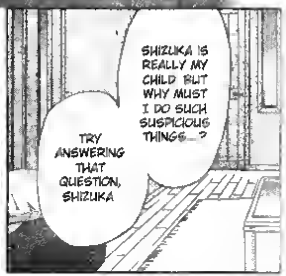
A BIRTH RECORD IS A DUPLICATE OF THE ACTUAL HOSPITAL RECORDS.
BUT A BIRTH STATEMENT IS JUST INFORMATION THAT ANY PERSON COULD WRITE.
WAS THERE A NEED TO DO SO?

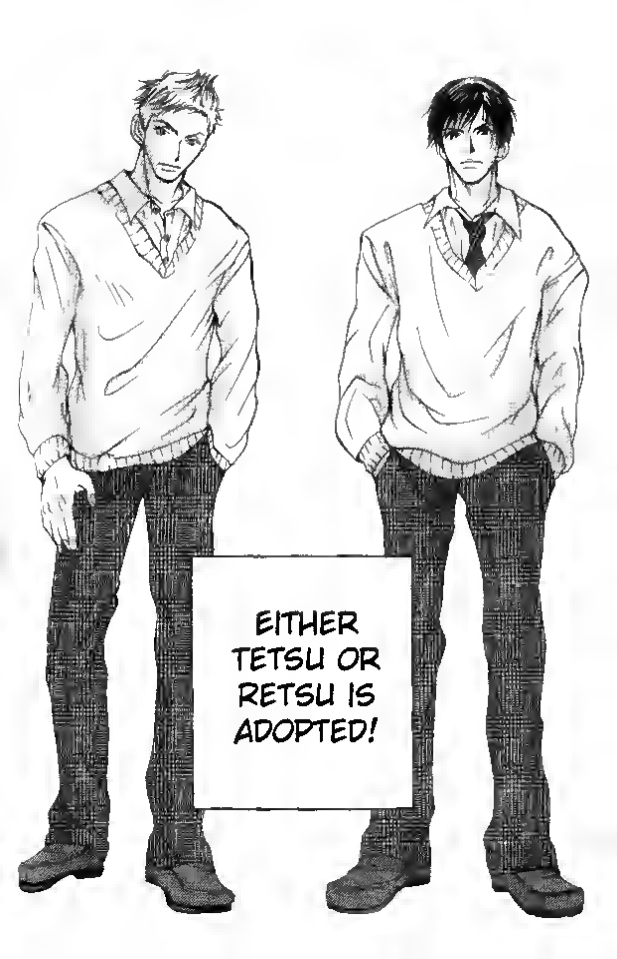
DON'T YOU ALREADY KNOW,
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SMART TETSU, IT'S JUST FULL OF DEAD FACTS.


I NEVER KNEW MY SON TO BE OBSERVANT. I DIDN'T EXPECT ANYONE TO FIND OUT
BUT, IT'S THE TRUTH THAT SHIZUKA ISN'T ADOPTED
THEN WHY


THOSE TWO SHOULD HAVE NOTICED BY NOW.

YOU WERE ACTUALLY HIDING THE FACT THAT


SHIZUKA IS REALLY MY CHILD BUT WHY MUST I DO SUCH SUSPICIOUS THINGS...?
TRY ANSWERING THAT QUESTION, SHIZUKA


EITHER TETSU OR RETSU IS ADOPTED!

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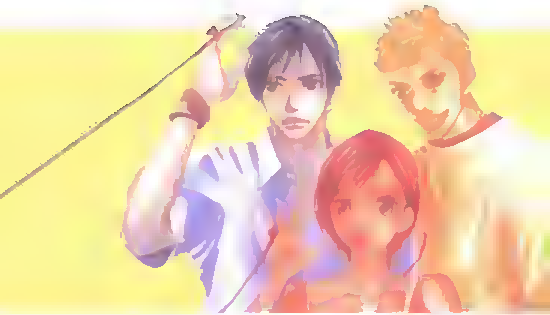

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CHAPTER 4

LET'S JUST FIND THE SIGNATURE STAMP FIRST...
SHE'S PROBABLY THE BEST AT HIDING THINGS IN JAPAN
NO... THAT OLD HAG SURE KNOWS HOW TO HIDE VALUABLE THINGS WELL
RETSU, DID YOU FIND IT YET?
TIK TIK TIK
TIK TIK TIK
TOKI

He is the hardest one to draw out of the three. At first, I was going to make him the strong and silent type, but it turns out that he would never stop talking....

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?
TETSU... RETSU...
AS YOU CAN SEE ——
WE ARE STEALING!!
NOW ALONE!
amo

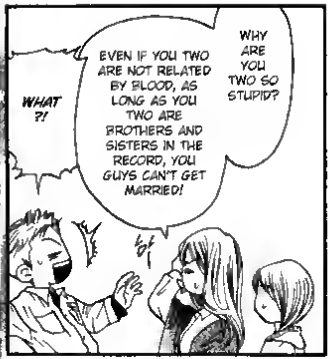
WHO CARES ABOUT YOU?! JUST GIVE US THE SIGNATURE STAMP, OLD HAG!
GIVE ME BACK THE SLEEP I LOST!
DON'T YOU GUYS KNOW HOW IMPORTANT MY BEAUTY SLEEP IS?
OLD HAG"? IS THAT HOW YOU CALL YOUR OWN BEAUTIFUL MOTHER..

SHUT UP! WHAT TIME DO YOU THINK IT IS?!
STEALING? YOU GUYS ARE TOO IMPULSIVE

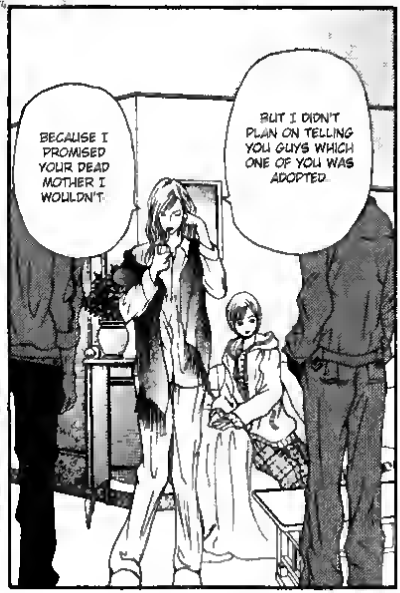
WITH THE SIGNATURE STAMP, WE CAN GO CHECK THE RECORDS
THEN WE'LL KNOW WHO THE ADOPTED ONE IS
THIS WAY, ONE OF US CAN STILL MARRY SHIZUKA!

YOU ....

OH WELL... I ALWAYS KNEW THIS DAY WOULD COME

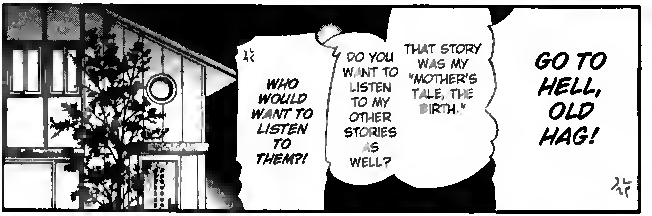

WHY ARE YOU TWO SO STUPID?
EVEN IF YOU TWO ARE NOT RELATED BY BLOOD, AS LONG AS YOU TWO ARE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE RECORD, YOU GUYS CAN'T GET MARRIED!
WHAT ?!

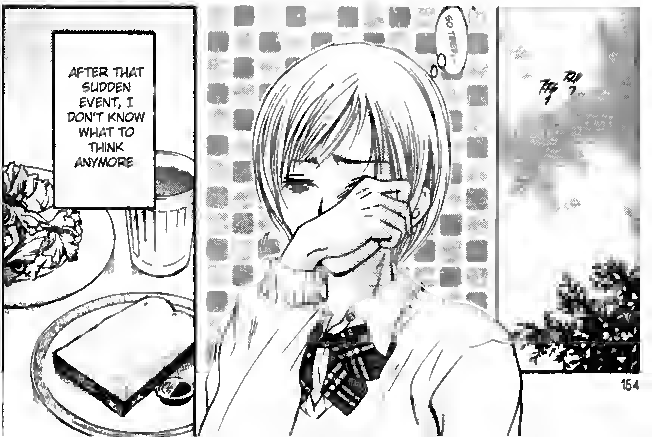
RIGHT BEFORE SHE DIED...SHE SAID, "PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THIS CHILD."...
THEN SHE KEPT HOLDING HIM OUT TO ME...


BUT I DIDN'T PLAN ON TELLING YOU GUYS WHICH ONE OF YOU WAS ADOPTED.
BECAUSE I PROMISED YOUR DEAD MOTHER I WOULDN'T.

.....

DID THAT REALLY HAPPEN ?
NO, I MADE THAT UP!

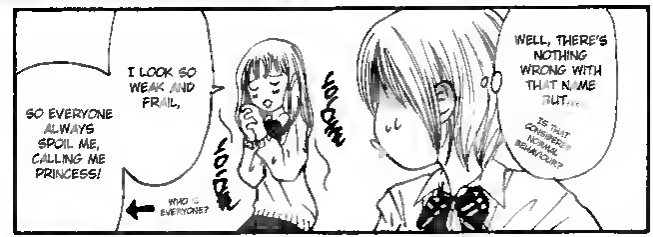

GO TO HELL, OLD HAG!
THAT STORY WAS MY "MOTHER'S TALE, THE BIRTH."
DO YOU WANT TO LISTEN TO MY OTHER STORIES AS WELL?
WHO WOULD WANT TO LISTEN TO THEM?!


AFTER THAT SUDDEN EVENT, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK ANYMORE

MORNING SHIZUKA
THAT OLD HAG
NOT ENOUGH SLEEP
I ALWAYS THOUGHT MY BROTHERS WERE TWINS YET, ALL OF A SUDDEN, I FIND OUT ONE OF THEM IS COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO ME
MORNING~
HONESTLY, I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO
OH YEAH!
I HEARD SHE IS GOING TO TRANSFER TO YOUR SCHOOL, SO REMEMBER TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER
ONE OF MY FRIENDS WHO IS MOVING TO THIS AREA HAS A DAUGHTER!

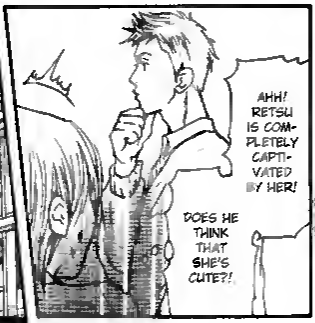
MY NAME IS YAMAYOSHI KANAKO
NICE TO MEET YOU
WOW, WHAT A CUTE GIRL...
NICE TO MEET YOU TOO
"NEW GIRL", WHICH SCHOOL DID YOU USED TO GO TO ?
CALLING ME YAMAYOSHI IS TOO FORMAL, JUST CALL ME BY MY NICKNAME!
OKAY, SO WHAT SHOULD I CALL YOU?
CALL ME PRINCESS KANA

PRIN-
CESS
KANA
PRINCESS?
SHIZUKA'S WEIRD-WOMEN DETECTOR JUST WENT OFF!!


WELL, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT NAME BUT...
IS THAT CONSIDERED NORMAL BEHAVIOUR?
YO-OHM
I LOOK SO WEAK AND FRAIL,
SO EVERYONE ALWAYS SPOIL ME, CALLING ME PRINCESS!
WHO IS EVERYONE?
YO-OHM

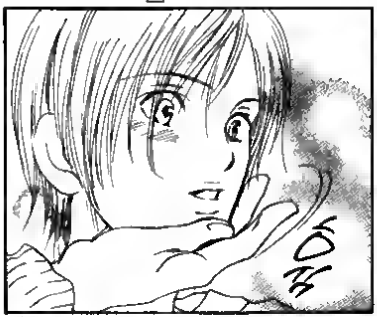
157

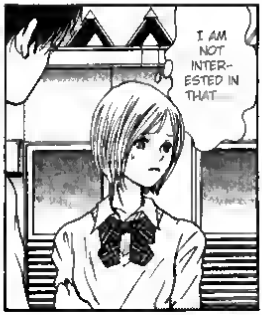
GO!
WHEE
WHEE


AHH! RETSU IS COMPLETELY CAPTIVATED BY HER!
DOES HE THINK THAT SHE'S CUTE?!

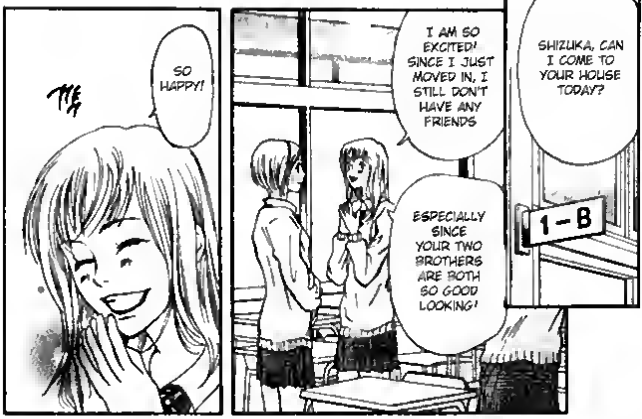
WOMEN CAN EASILY DETECT WHEN ANOTHER WOMEN IS COMPLETELY FAKE.
MEN, ON THE OTHER HAND.....

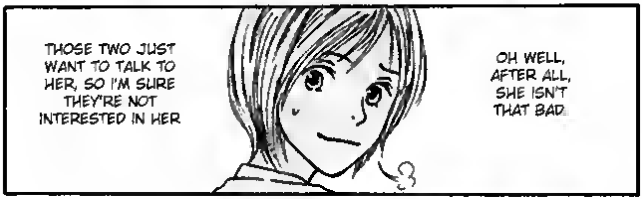
I AM INTERESTED IN THAT GIRL.
TYAMAYOSHI... I EAVESDROPPED ON A CONVERSATION BETWEEN MOM AND A LADY WITH THAT NAME
ISN'T IT EVEN STRANGER TO BE INTERESTED IN SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE YOUR SISTER?
DON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME BEING INTERESTED IN OTHER GIRLS BESIDES SHIZUKA IS JUST STRANGE
SHUT UP
YOUR TASTE STILL SUCKS
SO, I WAS RIGHT...
SHE DEFINITELY KNOWS SOMETHING
EVEN IF MOM GOT HER TO SHUT HER MOUTH, IF I ASK HER DAUGHTER MAYBE I CAN FIND SOME ANSWERS

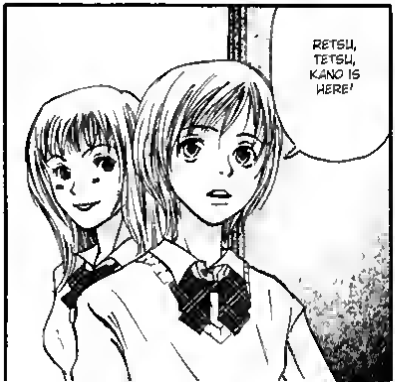


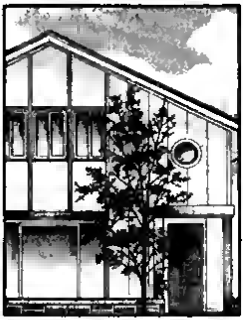

I AM NOT INTER-ESTED IN THAT

WHAT'S WRONG?
WHY IS IT THAT GOOD-LOOKING PEOPLE ARE SO SHAMELESS...?
.....

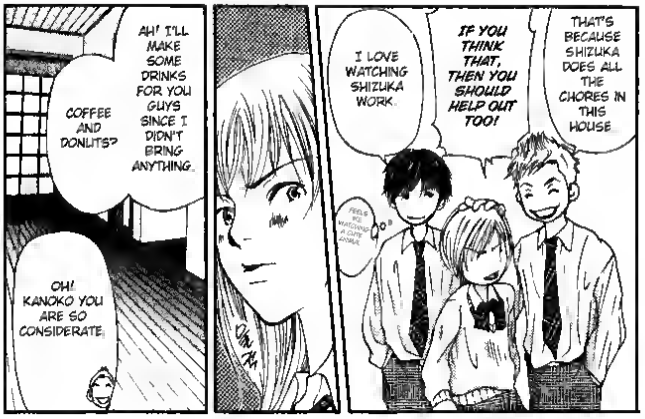

SHIZUKA, CAN I COME TO YOUR HOUSE TODAY?
1-B
I AM SO EXCITED! SINCE I JUST MOVED IN, I STILL DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS
ESPECIALLY SINCE YOUR TWO BROTHERS ARE BOTH SO GOOD LOOKING!
SO HAPPY!


THOSE TWO JUST WANT TO TALK TO HER, SO I'M SURE THEY'RE NOT INTERESTED IN HER
OH WELL, AFTER ALL, SHE ISN'T THAT BAD

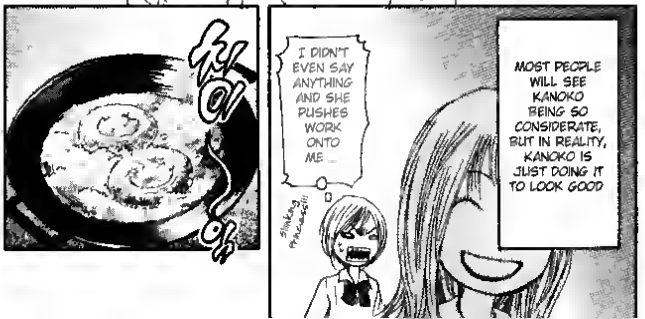

RETSU, TETSU, KANO IS HERE!



HEY, WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU FOR AGES!
WE ARE DEFINITELY GOING TO HAVE A GOOD TIME TODAY
AHHHH !!!!
THEY ARE FOR REAL!
WANT SOME WINE ?
NOOO! MY FAMILY IS TURNING INTO A SOAP OPERA!?
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL HOUSE!
I HOPE NOTHING HAPPENS


AH! I'LL MAKE SOME DRINKS FOR YOU GUYS SINCE I DIDN'T BRING ANYTHING.
COFFEE AND DONUTS?
OH! KANOKO YOU ARE SO CONSIDERATE.
I LOVE WATCHING SHIZUKA WORK.
IF YOU THINK THAT, THEN YOU SHOULD HELP OUT TOO!
THAT'S BECAUSE SHIZUKA DOES ALL THE CHORES IN THIS HOUSE.

REALLY ?! ♡
WELL, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE COFFEE, THE DONUTS ARE UP TO YOU SHIZUKA.


I DIDN'T EVEN SAY ANYTHING AND SHE PUSHES WORK ONTO ME...
SHIZUKA PRETENDS!!!
MOST PEOPLE WILL SEE KANOKO BEING SO CONSIDERATE, BUT IN REALITY, KANOKO IS JUST DOING IT TO LOOK GOOD

EVEN IF IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER I SAY IT OR NOT, I STILL MIND A LITTLE.

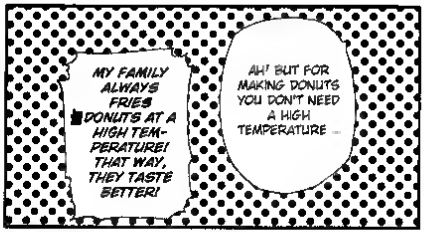
7 ④

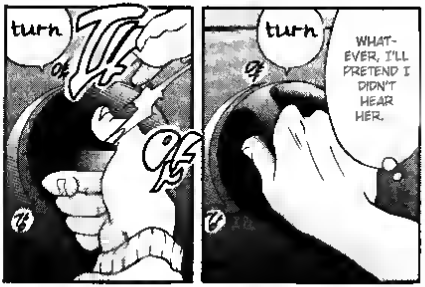
I WENT TO THE HOT SPRING A WHILE BACK AND I WANTED TO GET A MASSAGE. THEN I FOUND OUT THE MASSEUSE WAS ACTUALLY MY EX-CLASSMATE

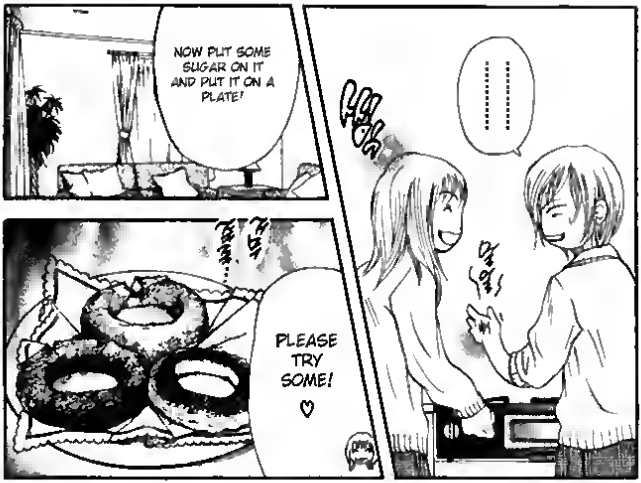
IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A PLACE WHERE I COULD TOTALLY RELAX, BUT I COULDN'T!

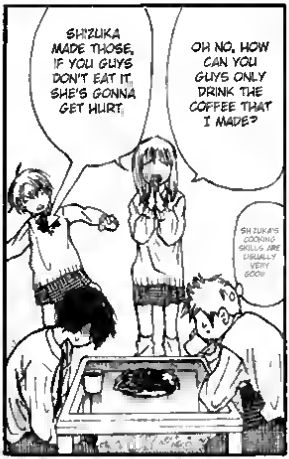
ALSO, MY UGLY FACE WHICH MAKES ME LOOK LIKE A GHOST WHENEVER I DON'T HAVE MAKEUP WAS SEEN.

I DIDN'T WANT TO BE SEEN IT AT ALL

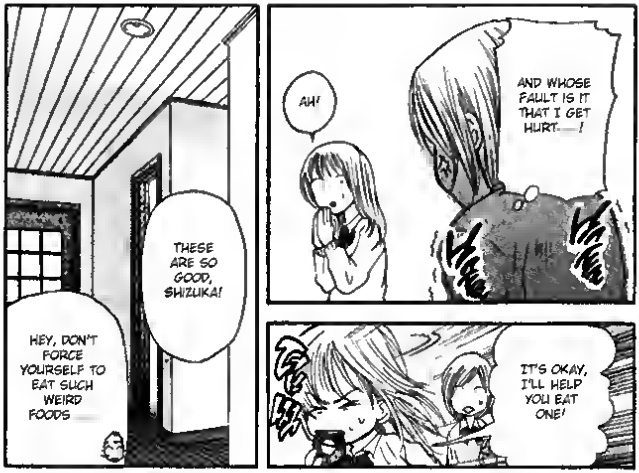

MY FAMILY ALWAYS FRIES DONUTS AT A HIGH TEMPERATURE! THAT WAY, THEY TASTE BETTER!
AH! BUT FOR MAKING DONUTS YOU DON'T NEED A HIGH TEMPERATURE...

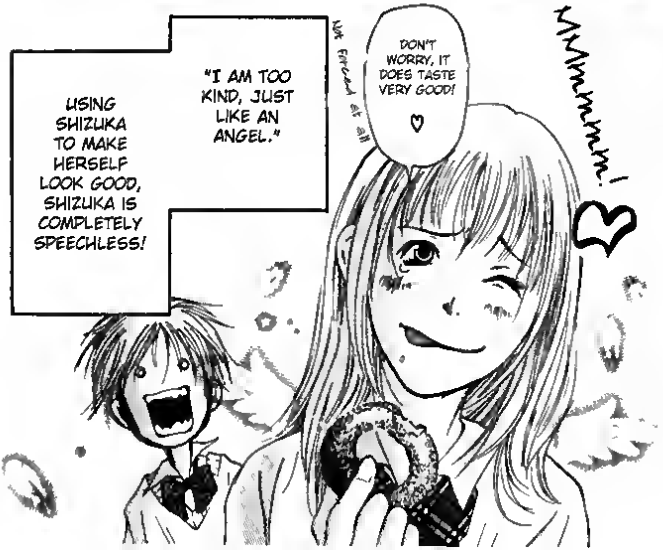


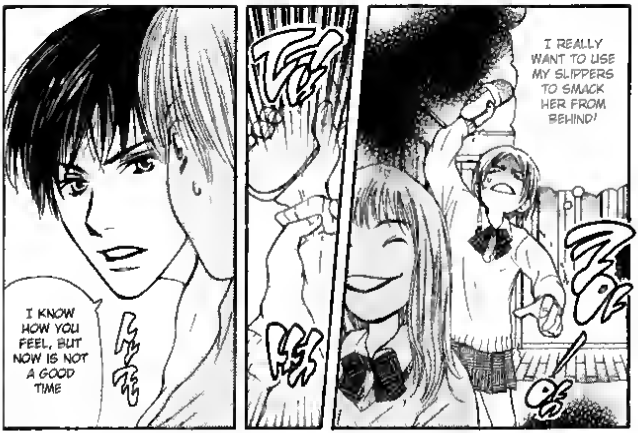

NOW PUT SOME SUGAR ON IT AND PUT IT ON A PLATE!
PLEASE TRY SOME! ♡


SHIZUKA MADE THOSE. IF YOU GUYS DON'T EAT IT, SHE'S GONNA GET HURT.
OH NO, HOW CAN YOU GUYS ONLY DRINK THE COFFEE THAT I MADE?
SHIZUKA'S COOKING SKILLS ARE USUALLY VERY GOOD

PLEASE EAT?!

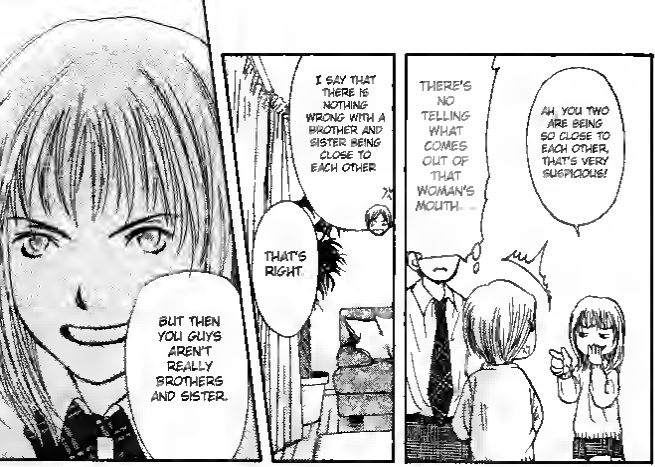

THESE ARE SO GOOD, SHIZUKA!
HEY, DON'T FORCE YOURSELF TO EAT SUCH WEIRD FOODS...
AH!
AND WHOSE FAULT IS IT THAT I GET HURT...!
IT'S OKAY, I'LL HELP YOU EAT ONE!

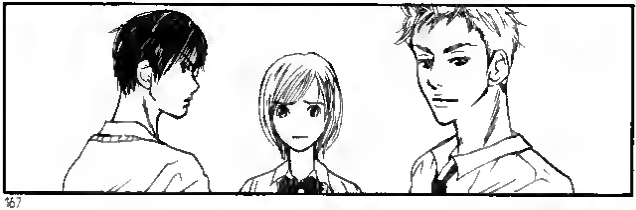

USING SHIZUKA TO MAKE HERSELF LOOK GOOD, SHIZUKA IS COMPLETELY SPEECHLESS!
"I AM TOO KIND, JUST LIKE AN ANGEL."
Not forced at all
DON'T WORRY, IT DOES TASTE VERY GOOD!
♡
Mmmmmm!
♡

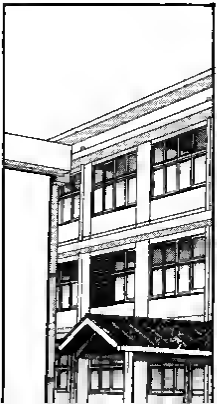

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT NOW IS NOT A GOOD TIME
I REALLY WANT TO USE MY SLIPPERS TO SMACK HER FROM BEHIND!

WELL
DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHICH ONE OF US IS ADOPTED?
BUT!

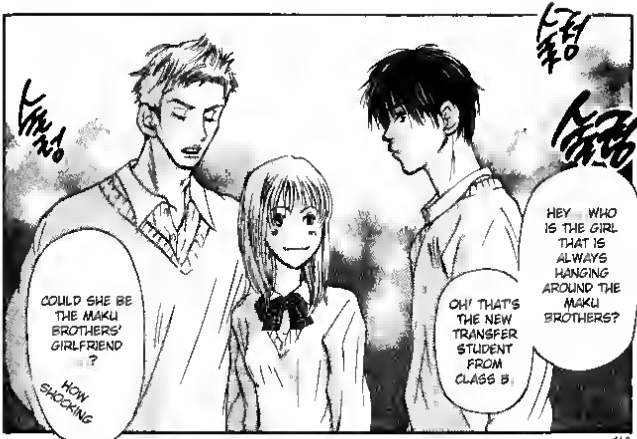
HONESTLY, I DON'T REALLY WANT TO KNOW...
BUT I'M SCARED


BUT THEN YOU GUYS AREN'T REALLY BROTHERS AND SISTER.
I SAY THAT THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH A BROTHER AND SISTER BEING CLOSE TO EACH OTHER
THAT'S RIGHT.
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT COMES OUT OF THAT WOMAN'S MOUTH...
AH, YOU TWO ARE BEING SO CLOSE TO EACH OTHER, THAT'S VERY SUSPICIOUS!





DOES THAT WOMAN REALLY KNOW?


HEY... WHO IS THE GIRL THAT IS ALWAYS HANGING AROUND THE MAKU BROTHERS?
OH! THAT'S THE NEW TRANSFER STUDENT FROM CLASS B.
COULD SHE BE THE MAKU BROTHERS' GIRLFRIEND...?
HOW SHOCKING

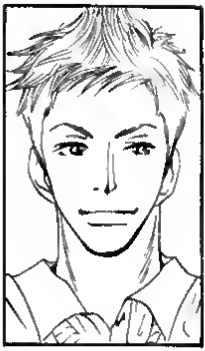
YAMAYO-SHI, YOU ARE SO AMAZING!

SIGH... THEY'RE ONLY FOLLOWING HER AROUND BECAUSE THEY WANT SOME ANSWERS FROM HER...
HOW COULD YOU LET THAT KINDA WOMAN INTO YOUR BROTHERS' LIVES!
BULLSHIT, JUST GET HER AWAY FROM THEM!

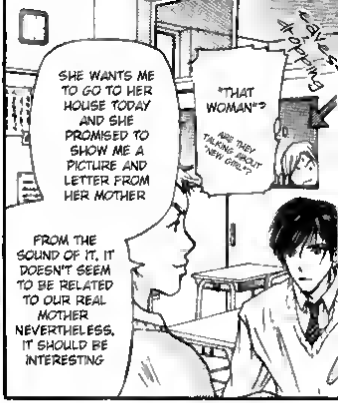
SHIZUKA!

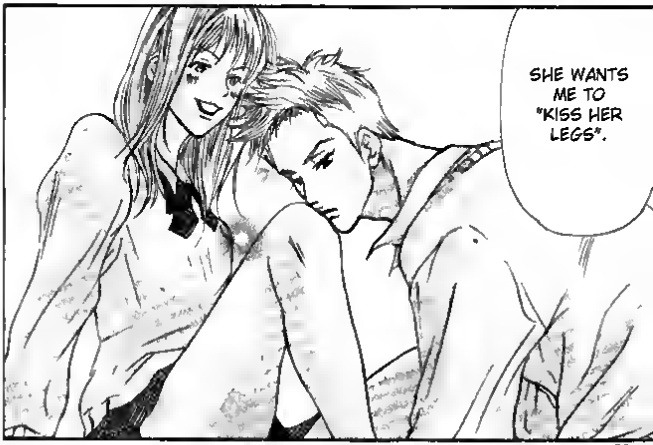
THE MAKU BROTHERS ARE REALLY POPULAR AROUND HERE
YOU MAKE ME SO JEALOUS!
YOU JUST CAME HERE AND YOU ARE HOGGING THEM ALREADY

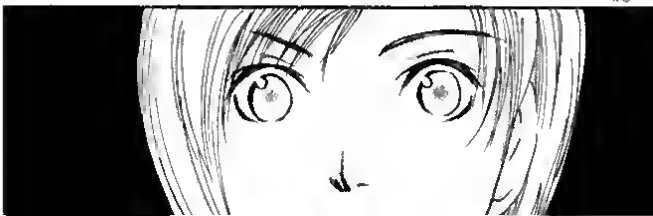
I AM NOT HOGGING THEM, THEY JUST SPOIL ME
BECAUSE I AM A NATURAL BLONDE
A "NATURAL BLONDE", YET SHE DOESN'T LOOK STUPID AT ALL!
AT THAT MOMENT, EVERYONE REALIZED THAT THIS WAS NO ORDINARY WOMAN
AT THIS RATE, THAT WOMAN IS GOING TO BECOME MORE AND MORE INTOLERABLE...
I BETTER WARN THOSE TWO...
2 - D
AND THEN? WHAT DID THAT WOMAN SAY?



RETSU WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO HAVE TO DO FOR HER?


SHE WANTS ME TO GO TO HER HOUSE TODAY AND SHE PROMISED TO SHOW ME A PICTURE AND LETTER FROM HER MOTHER
FROM THE SOUND OF IT, IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE RELATED TO OUR REAL MOTHER NEVERTHELESS, IT SHOULD BE INTERESTING
"THAT WOMAN"?
ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT THEIR GRANDMA?





YOU KISSED IT YET?
YEA!
ME TOO!

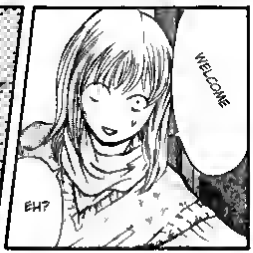
THAT'S RIGHT, AT LEAST,
BUT THINGS CAN'T GO ON THIS WAY, SO WE HAVE TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH.

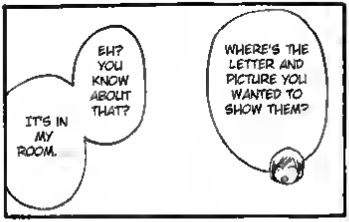
THIS DIRTY WORK SHOULD BE LEFT TO US.

I THINK... SHIZUKA DOESN'T REALLY WANT TO KNOW WHICH ONE OF US IS ADOPTED.

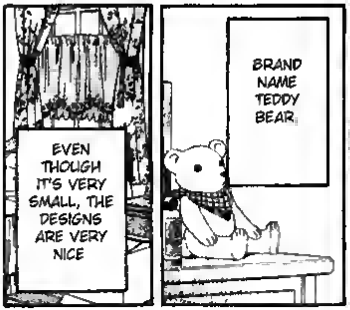
SHIZUKA IS GOING TO BE MAD IF SHE FINDS OUT.
NO SHIT!
HER GIGOLO CAN GET US SOME INFORMATION, THINGS WON'T BE COMPLI-CATED

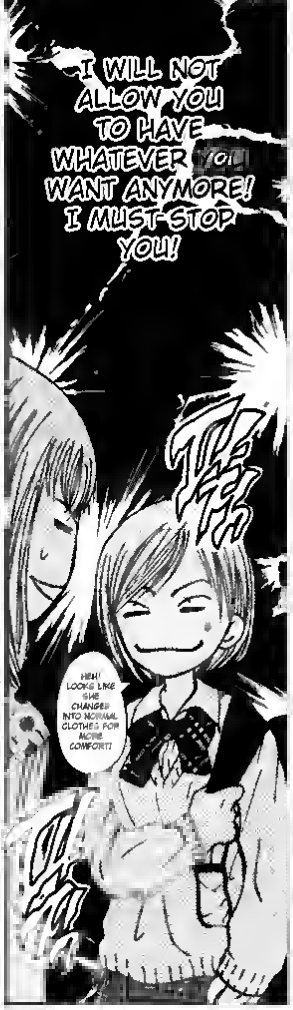
THEY ARE SO STUPID... WHY ARE THEY GOING THROUGH WITH IT?

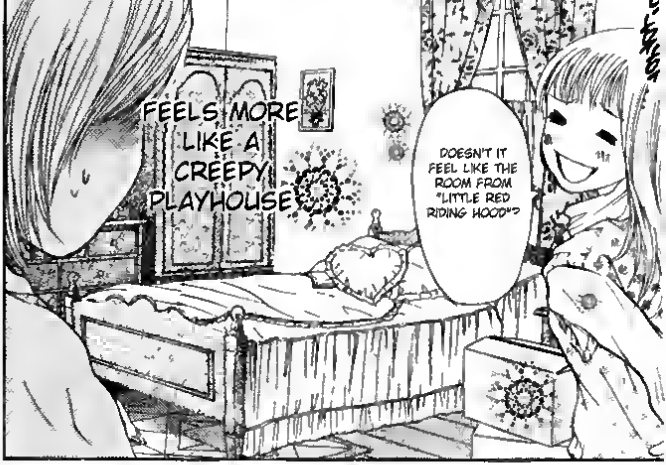



WHERE'S THE LETTER AND PICTURE YOU WANTED TO SHOW THEM?
EH? YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
IT'S IN MY ROOM.

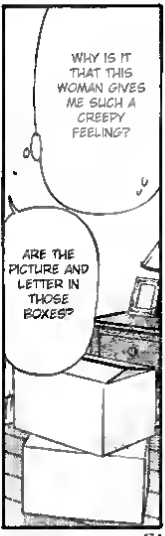
PLEASE COME IN

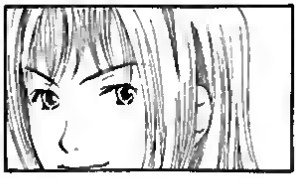

BRAND NAME TEDDY BEAR
EVEN THOUGH IT'S VERY SMALL, THE DESIGNS ARE VERY NICE


I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO HAVE WHATEVER YOU WANT ANYMORE! I MUST STOP YOU!
THE
HEH! LOOKS LIKE SHE CHANGED INTO NORMAL CLOTHES FOR MORE COMFORT!

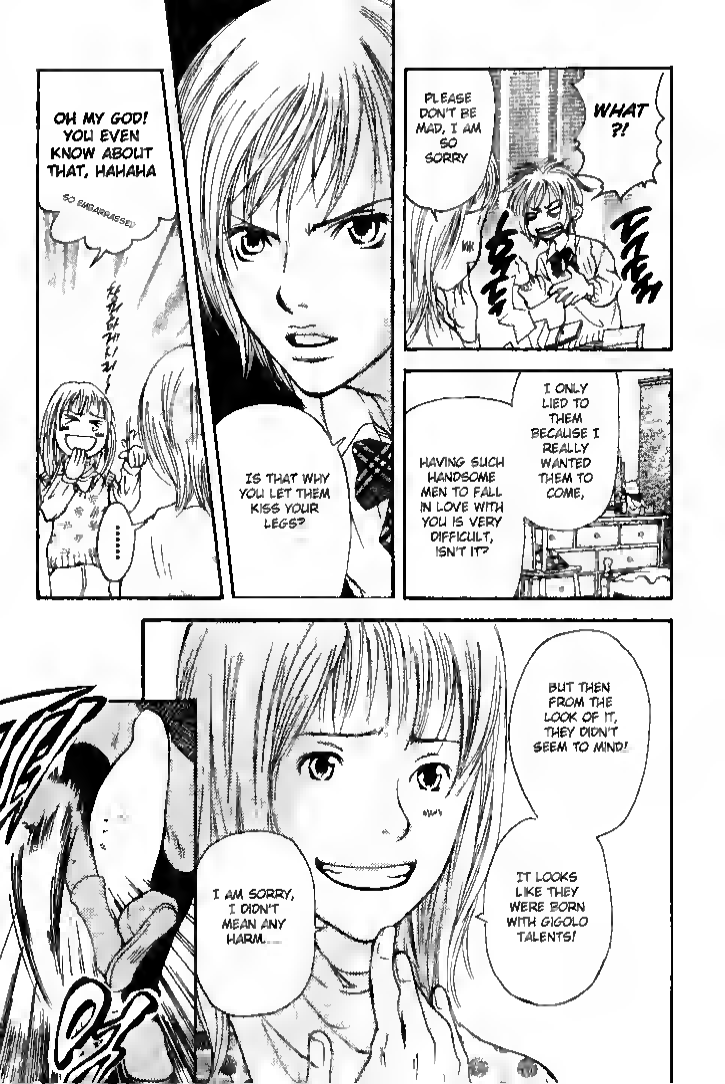

FEELS MORE LIKE A CREEPY PLAYHOUSE
DOESN'T IT FEEL LIKE THE ROOM FROM "LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD"?

I HAVE TO LOOK INTO THIS...!
I CAN'T LET THIS WOMAN CONTROL MY BROTHERS!

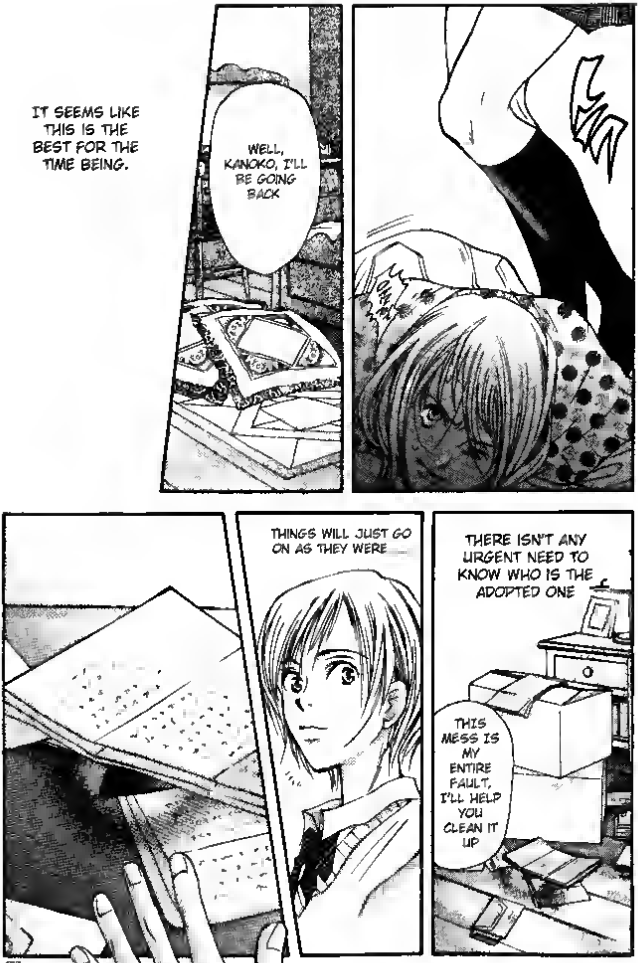

WHY IS IT THAT THIS WOMAN GIVES ME SUCH A CREEPY FEELING?
ARE THE PICTURE AND LETTER IN THOSE BOXES?



SHIZUKA. IT'S POINTLESS.
I ALREADY LOOKED AT THE PICTURE AND LETTERS AND THEY ARE COMPLETELY UNRELATED


PLEASE DON'T BE MAD, I AM SO SORRY
WHAT ?!
I ONLY LIED TO THEM BECAUSE I REALLY WANTED THEM TO COME,
HAVING SUCH HANDSOME MEN TO FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU IS VERY DIFFICULT, ISN'T IT?
IS THAT WHY YOU LET THEM KISS YOUR LEGS?
OH MY GOD! YOU EVEN KNOW ABOUT THAT, HAHAHA
SO EMBARRASSED
BUT THEN FROM THE LOOK OF IT, THEY DIDN'T SEEM TO MIND!
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE BORN WITH GIGOLO TALENTS!
I AM SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM.

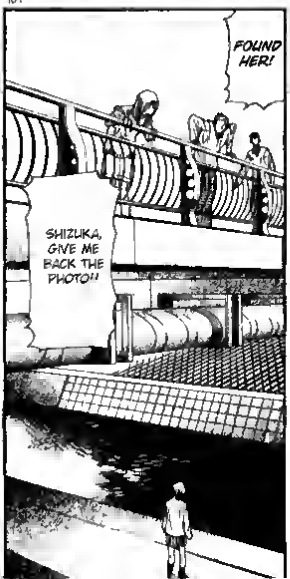
SO SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM EITHER.


IT SEEMS LIKE THIS IS THE BEST FOR THE TIME BEING.
WELL, KANOKO, I'LL BE GOING BACK
GUH!
THINGS WILL JUST GO ON AS THEY WERE
THERE ISN'T ANY URGENT NEED TO KNOW WHO IS THE ADOPTED ONE
THIS MESS IS MY ENTIRE FAULT, I'LL HELP YOU CLEAN IT UP

OH GOD...!!
HUH?
I REMEMBER THAT WOMAN'S HOUSE IS AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.

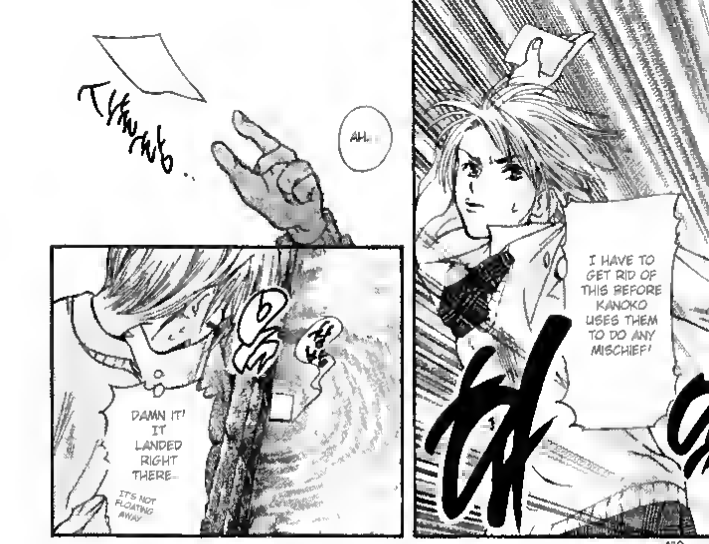
I DON'T KNOW WHAT PHOTO THAT IS, BUT SHIZUKA MUST HAVE DISCOVERED SOMETHING ....!
THAT PHOTO IS THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTIONS, YOU HAVE TO MAKE HER SHOW IT TO YOU!!

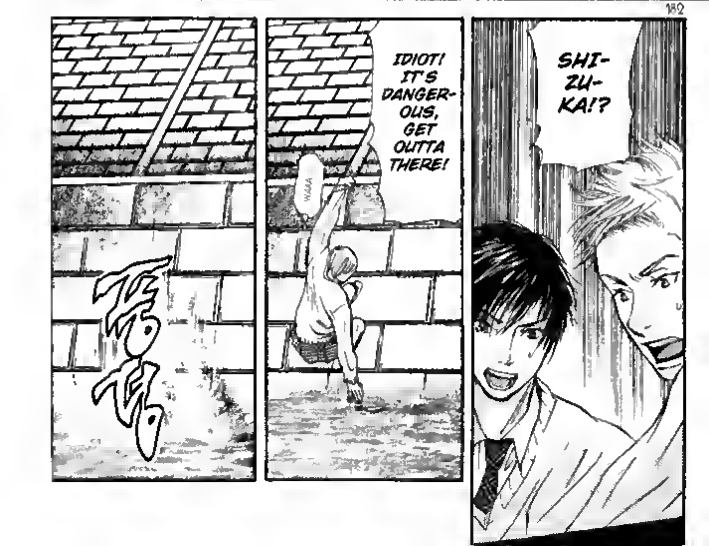
I AM SO STUPID.



WHY....

WHY HAVE I ALWAYS BEEN SO UNLUCKY?


I HAVE TO GET RID OF THIS BEFORE KANOKO USES THEM TO DO ANY MISCHIEF!
AH...
DAMN IT! IT LANDED RIGHT THERE...
IT'S NOT FLOATING AWAY


SHI-ZU-KA!?
IDIOT! IT'S DANGER-OUS, GET OUTTA THERE!

WAAAA!
shuffle
HUH?

WAAAAAA!
YOU TWO ARE THE DANGER-OUS ONES!
AIYAAA!

AH! THE PHOTO!!
IT'S FLOATING AWAY!
GET IT QUICKLY!
WHO CARES ABOUT SHIZUKA? SHE CAN JUST FLOAT, SO GET THE PHOTO!
OH NO! THEY ARE GONNA SEE IT!
SHUT UP! BITCH!

YOU THINK WE'RE GONNA DO EVERYTHING YOU TELL US TO!? BITCH!
WHY DON'T YOU GET IT YOURSELF? DINO-GIRL!

AH! HOW DARE YOU!
FUCK OFF, BITCH!
SO PISSED OFF!

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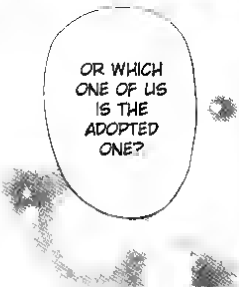
IF ONLY WE WERE MORE PATIENT WE COULD HAVE SEEN THAT WITH THE RIVER'S DEPTH, ANY ADULT WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TO WALK IN IT
NOOO!
WHAT? ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT HOW WE ARE GONNA FREEZE IN THIS WEATHER?

IS THIS ALRIGHT?

THE PHOTO IS GONE NOW,
AREN'T YOU GUYS GONNA ASK ME ANYTHING?

YOU MEAN WHAT WAS ON THE PHOTO....


OR WHICH ONE OF US IS THE ADOPTED ONE?

ISN'T IT OKAY NOW?
DIDN'T YOU NOT WANT TO TELL US?
NOO! SINCE EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT IT ALREADY, THERE'S NO POINT IN HIDING IT ANYMORE
YEP! I ALREADY KNOW...
IT'S ABOUT TIME I HELP THEM BACK
I'LL GIVE YOU A HINT FIRST!
THESE TWO PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS BY MY SIDE PROTECTING ME
BUT THEN I MUST DO IT
THAT PERSON'S SPECIALTY IS...
ALTHOUGH DOING THIS IS GOING TO CHANGE THE TWO PEOPLE I LOVE THE MOST...

DON'T SAY IT!
EVERY WORD YOU SAY, WE CAN HEAR YOUR HEART SCREAMING "SAVE ME"!
I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT...

ME TOO ....
WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS SOME OTHER TIME.

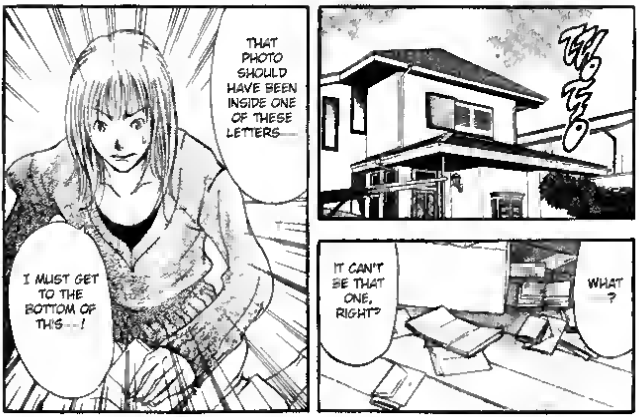
SHIZUKA, WHATEVER YOU DON'T WANT, WE WOULDN'T WANT EITHER,
ISN'T THAT SIMPLE?

MY TEARS FLOWED ENDLESSLY AGAINST MY WILL

THESE TWO PEOPLE, WHETHER THEY ARE MY BROTHERS OR NOT

I'LL ALWAYS LOVE THEM.

THAT IS MY TRUE FEELING.


THAT PHOTO SHOULD HAVE BEEN INSIDE ONE OF THESE LETTERS——
I MUST GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS——!
ﾄﾞﾛﾛﾛ
IT CAN'T BE THAT ONE, RIGHT?
WHAT——?

I'M COMING!
EVEN THOSE WHO ACCIDENTALLY HURT ME WILL SUFFER AS WELL
NICE TO SEE YOU!
THOSE WHO MADE ME LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT .....
HOW SHALL I PUNISH THEM?
Evil laugh
Evil laugh
I'M RYOKO. ♡
I DON'T MEAN TO BOTHER YOU, BIG SISTER.

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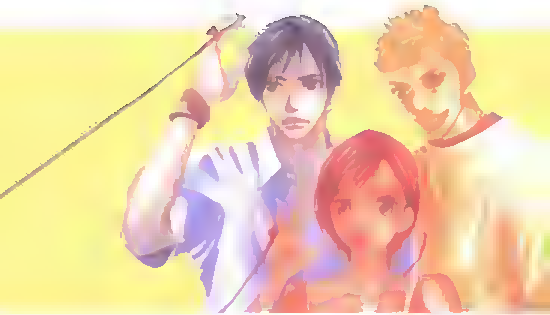

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